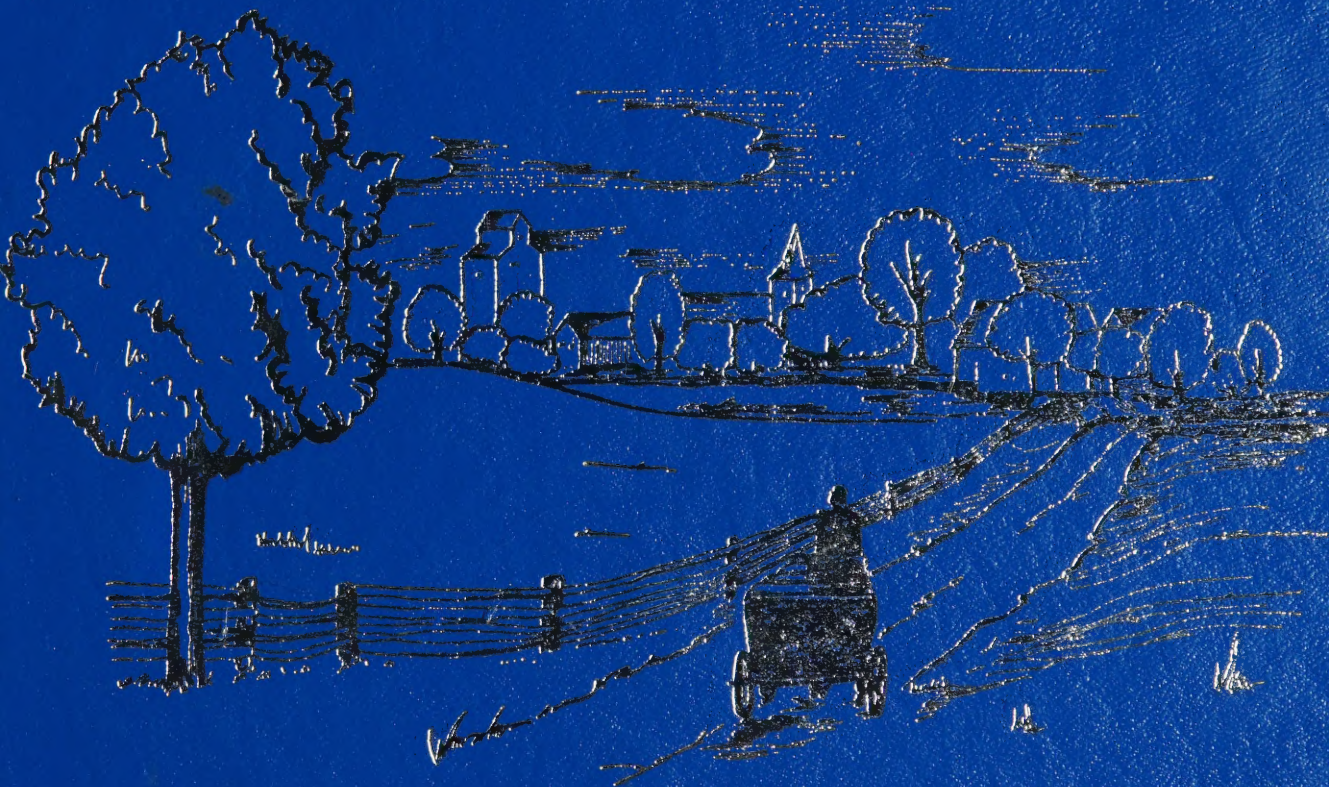


3 1221 03193 4503
EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



DOWN MEMORY LANE

A History of Irma and District

Volume II





Alberta Wheat Pool.

g-jarvis



DOWN MEMORY'S LANE
WITH YOU

*I'd like to stroll down Memory's Lane
Together, you and I -
And sing the songs we used to sing
In pleasant days gone by.
Our thoughts will bloom like flowers
And we'll gather every one.
We'll laugh at things we used to do;
The joyous things we've done
And then someday if God is good
Perhaps beneath the sky -
Hand in hand, we'll stroll once more
Together - You and I!*



DOWN MEMORY LANE

A History of Irma and District



Compiled by Irma and District
Historical Society
Irma, Alberta
1985

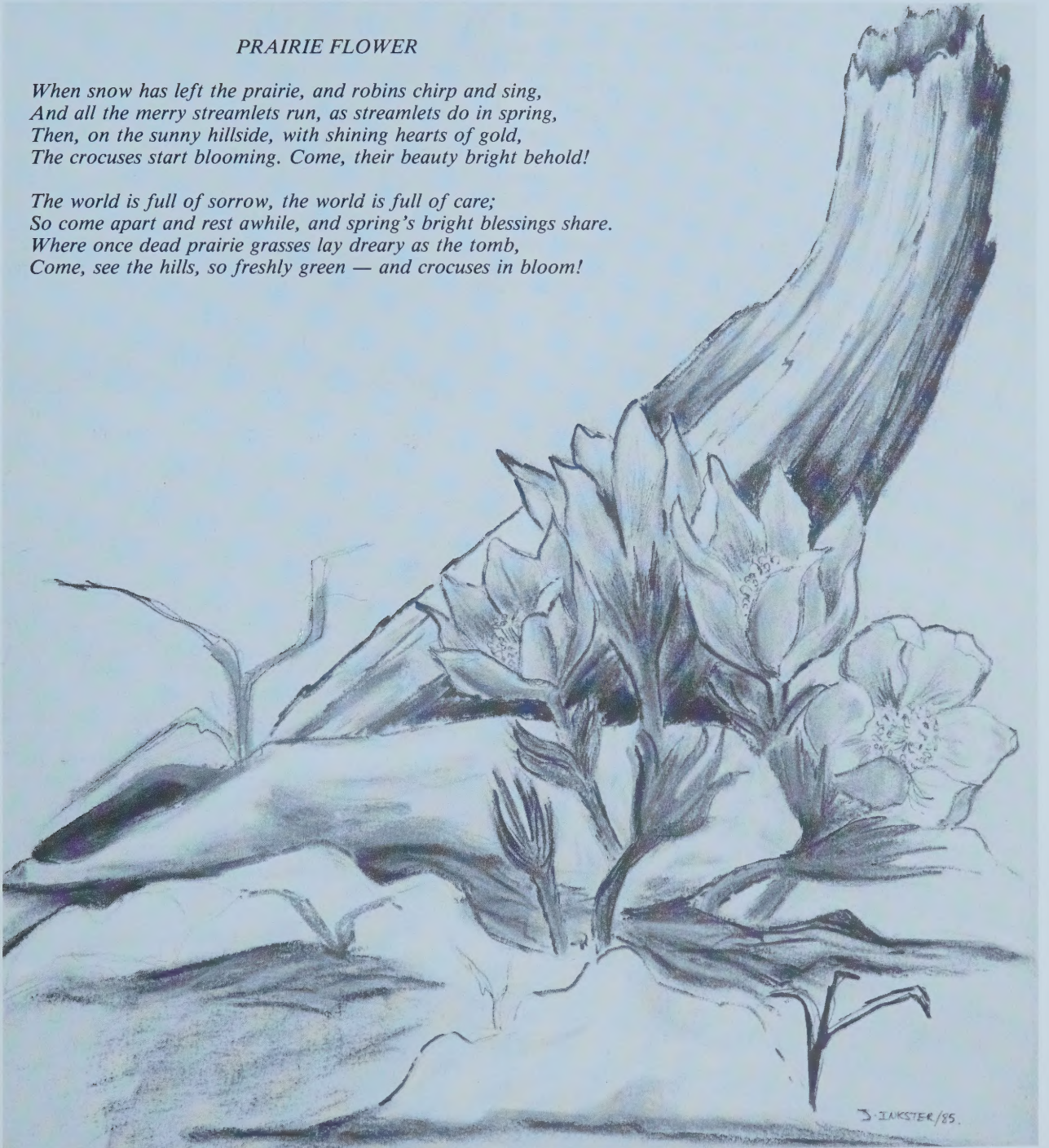
Printed by Inter-Collegiate Press



PRAIRIE FLOWER

*When snow has left the prairie, and robins chirp and sing,
And all the merry streamlets run, as streamlets do in spring,
Then, on the sunny hillside, with shining hearts of gold,
The crocuses start blooming. Come, their beauty bright behold!*

*The world is full of sorrow, the world is full of care;
So come apart and rest awhile, and spring's bright blessings share.
Where once dead prairie grasses lay dreary as the tomb,
Come, see the hills, so freshly green — and crocuses in bloom!*



J. IAKSTER/85.

RECIPE FOR SPRING

*Take half a dozen robins, some bluebirds — three or four,
At least one gallant mockingbird to sing outside your door;
A carpet of green velvet, with patterned flowers gay,
The graceful fronds of willows that swing and dip and sway;
Some glowing green of maples, a bit of dogwood's white,
The purple-pink of redbud from dawn-times glowing light;
The rippling of a brooklet, the splendor of the sky,
The haunting scent of lilac, some fleecy clouds on high;
A breeze to whisper gay nothings in your ear,
To offer sweet caresses for only you to hear.
And if you'll stir them gently, and mold them in your heart,
Until the sight and sound of them is of yourself a part;
You'll have the sweetest springtime that ever you have known,
Though everyone may share it, it still will be your own.*





Pearl Ford

FRANK FORD FAMILY

Frank Ford and Alma Younker were married on July 23rd, 1943. They lived on the Roy Shotts' place. Thirteen children were born to this union. Ten children attended Irma school.

Fred married Geraldine Lewis in 1967 and they live on the former Grover Arnold farm known later as Meyer's place. They have two children, Tim and Tracey.

Jim married Eva Thurston in 1973. They live on the Del Smith place. They have four children, Tanya, Darcy, Janice and Jamie.

Wallace is not married and lives at home. He has a large dairy business.

Robert married Halon Nemyo in 1970 and live on the Avonglen school site. They have one daughter, Jennifer.

Ken married Doris Firkus and they live on the Arnold farm. Van Hyftes and Meyers had lived on this farm prior to Ken. Doris and Ken have four boys, Bevan, Kent, Scott and Trevor.

Edith is not married and lives at home. She helps Wallace with the dairy operation.

Ernie married Carol Bodinsky of Edmonton in 1976 and live across the road from the home farm. Ernie drives a gravel truck for Albert Glasgow. They have Brian and Dustin for a family.

Stanley married Esther Krochmal of St. Paul in 1981 and they live on the Coultman farm. They have a baby boy Francis.

Chester married Donna Frye in January of 1980 and they live on the Czeperak farm.

Jerry is not married. He lives at home with his mother.

The Fords have a large farming operation as well as operate a brushing and breaking business.

Frank passed away in the Viking hospital in 1976. He had suffered with a bad heart and had led a restricted life

for a number of years. Three children died in infancy. The Ford boys have been active in sports.



Frank and Alma Ford married July 23, 1943.



Frank Ford, Jr. riding the bull.

GEORGE AND JOAN FORD AND FAMILY

George Ford was born in 1912 and raised in the Avonglen district. He married Joan Eleanor Eeles of Hughenden in 1951 and they have been farming in this area since that time. They raised four sons and one daughter. Their eldest son, Edward Arthur, married Nola Hill of Vermilion and they have seven children. Edward is presently working in Vermilion selling farm machinery for Stan's Farm Supply. Paul James married Laura Bradford of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and they have

three children. Paul is presently farming with his father. Donald George married Esther Ford of St. Paul and they have two children. Donald graduated from Prairie Bible Institute in Three Hills with a degree and is presently pastoring a church in the Peace River district under the Canadian Sunday School Mission. Ronald Francis married Audrey Hettinger of Beechy, Saskatchewan and they will also be graduating with degrees from the Prairie Bible Institute in Three Hills. Ruth Darlene is presently working on staff at the Prairie Bible Institute and is looking forward to Nurses' Training in the near future.

The Ford children graduated from Irma school. The Ford family attends Avonglen Gospel Mission.



Mrs. Ceasar and grandchildren - Doris, Annie, Frank and George.

ROBERT FOREMAN

by George Goodie Foreman

This is the Robert Foreman history written by his youngest son, George Goodie Foreman. My father, Robert, was born in Woorich, England in 1867. His father was a man who worked around the boats or at boat building. My grandfather, James Foreman, with his family of five (three girls and two boys) moved to Brampton, Ontario close to where the Toronto airport is now. Around 1876 he moved with his wife and family to a homestead in the Muskoka district, and there my father, Robert, grew up working for the neighbors in the summertime and in the logging camps in the winter for \$18.00 per month. A lot of you will be surprised when I tell you he worked for the first Tim Eaton and his wife at their summer cottage near Rosseau - the order was given - "Never come to the table in your shirt sleeves." I will tell you that Buck Haun's father had a sawmill set up on my grandad's place and it was there my father met the late Buck Haun.

Well in the early 1900's my father and brother Charlie, six years younger, decided to hit west with a carload of stock and some goods and they landed at Gilbert Plains, Manitoba. They homesteaded, one on one quarter and the other just over the line fence. My father was not too good a cook then, so as soon as he got a house built and ready, he went looking for a cook. He met my mother, Christina McGregor, a Scottish girl. They were married and my sister Olive was born soon after. My brother David Osborne was born in 1908, and on June 7, 1911 George Goodie appeared.

In November 1924 my father sold out and moved to Alberta, and as soon as my brother-in-law, M.M. Ross said Buck Haun lived north of Irma, my dad had to go to see his old chum. That first winter, the Foremans lived in the Slim Peterson house east of the old Strawberry Plains School. In the spring of 1925, Robert Foreman bought the S.E. 30-44-8. It is the quarter southeast of the Frank Weise farm. I went to Lewisville School in 1925. I had three teachers - Mildred Chase, Margaret Miles and also Miss Lette, later Mrs. Charles Rogers. I left school when I was sixteen to help farm. My brother David went to Senlac, Saskatchewan to work for close friends for two years. He worked for different ones around Irma until 1930. Then he went to Edmonton and worked in coal mines around Namao. In 1938 he started working in the railroad roundhouse and worked at Jasper Park Lodge. There he met his wife, Dolly Bouchard from Westlock, Alberta. In 1939 they moved to Edmonton and he worked in the shop. One day the boss came up to him and asked him if he would like to go driving an engine on the road. They sent him out to Prince Rupert B.C. He was out there six weeks in 1940, the winter of the deep snow in Edmonton. They now have a family of four, three boys and one girl. Dave retired off the railroad after thirty-three years and he and his wife live in Edmonton.

In 1928 I took over the NE 11-45-9, northeast of Sidney Johnston's. My father and I moved on to the school land. We cleaned it up and broke the land. We used the team and logging chain to pull the poplars and willows. I broke the land with the breaking plow and four horses. I believe the first threshing done on the school land was by M.D. Askin and his son Roy. We had quite a time to get good water. We hauled water from Jim and Minnie Jackson's and if we were visiting, we would take the cream cans along and bring water home.



Robert Foreman sawing wood around 1930.

I will say we were one of the first ones to have a radio in the country. It had two peanut tubes and I got three sets of headphones and some nights there were so many in the shack that we took the sets apart and used them just like a telephone receiver. I listened to the longest hockey game so far on that radio, the one that was played in Detroit. I listened to Jack Dempsey and Joe Louis on it. I was sitting listening to the late news one night when a news flash came, the Athabaskan, a war vessel was hit, and my school chum and close neighbor, Pearl Rubenok's husband, Alex Mancor, was an officer on that

boat. We all wondered if he would make it off - yes he did.

George Rubenok and wife Gladys were real good neighbors and so were the Weises. Mrs. Weise and Mrs. Rubenok looked after my mother when she was home in bed. Well, in the dry thirties we were one of the first ones around here to have a Bennett Buggy. We got it from Victor Hutchinson. He was grinding grain for the stock in Keith Coffin's place now. My dad got a brown team from George Hipperson, Prince and Brownie, and we travelled quite a few miles, visiting, with that team. There will be a picture of them with this write-up. Dad did the cooking, washing and gardening. He made as good baking powder biscuits as the Jacksons. Dad used to set his bread at night and then get up in the middle of the night to punch it down. On a nice Sunday morning, I would get the team ready and then get ready ourselves and head off for Art Gwinns. His mother and dad were there then, and we would get up there for dinner. Then in the afternoon we would play cards till we got tired and then we would head for home. We always returned that night even if it was late. You might wonder what a Bennett Buggy was. It was the bottom part of a Model T Ford car. Just the frame and tires were left on, the motor and top all removed, and a box built on the springs with a pole fastened to it so it could be steered by a team of horses.

In the years of the grasshoppers, Bob Dempsey and I used the buggy to spread grasshopper poison. We would do it in the mornings when it was quiet. In the spring of 1937 I rented a quarter of land from Able Rance, a fellow who lived with Jim and Dolly Hearne and returned to England later. I bought a CCM bicycle and I took the horses down to the rented land and used the bicycle to ride back. This is when I got to know the Satres and the Nilsons. The land that Rance had is now owned by the Pasztor boys.

How could I buy a car when wheat was twenty cents a bushel? After I gave up the Rance land, I was able to rent the Allen quarter, one mile south of my own place and there were forty acres of pasture on it. I was able to get a few more cattle and the south side of the Allen quarter was field so I worked it up and seeded it each year. It belongs to the Longs now.

Perhaps I should tell here that my dad spent two winters in a nursing home in Edmonton. He passed away one evening as he was eating his supper. My mother passed away in February 1927, in the General Hospital. Both Dad and Mom are laid side by side in the Irma cemetery. I may say my sister Olive married Milton Ross in 1921 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and came to live on the C.P.R. land across the road from the Matheson land. Martin Creasy has it now. Milton Ross did a lot of painting in the Irma district. They had a family of three boys. The youngest one died when he was little. Glenn Ross was born in September 1926, in Hardisty, Alberta and Douglas was born in 1928 in Wainwright hospital. Then in 1931, Milt Ross and family went out to B.C. They had a new Pontiac car, and they left their horses and machinery with me. My sister did not like it out in B.C., so Milt traded the Pontiac car for a quarter section of land, sight unseen, one mile east of Uncas, Alberta.



Dave, George, and Dolly Foreman.

Later they moved to Bellville, Ontario where Glenn still lives. My sister and her husband have both passed away. Glenn comes out west to visit me most every year. Douglas Ross is a United Church minister in Ottawa. My sister also adopted a girl, Betty, who lives with her husband and three children at Bellville, Ontario.

In 1948 I bought my first tractor, an I.H.C.A., just a two plow tractor. I used it for many years to go visiting. The last I have to say is that in 1952, Eddie and Lorna Jackson were married and came to make their home on the old Dempsey farm, three-quarters of a mile east of me. Their two daughters, Noreen and Phyllis were born when they were living there and so with knowing them so well, I bought a brown folding cribbage board and took it up there and I believe they still have it. We have spent many nights playing cribbage. The Eddie Jackson family are my old friends. One special occasion was celebrated in their home and that was my sixty-fifth birthday. About forty friends and neighbors came and Trudeau paid for it all.

When the combines started to take off the crops, I could never learn to work one so in the seventies, I rented my land to Ted Hill and I take a share of the crop. In 1979 I bought the house, contents and lot in Irma from the estate of Howard Jamieson and moved in May 1, 1979. In the winter of 1981-82 I went into the Vialta Lodge in Viking and stayed till April and then moved back to my own home in Irma. I went back to Vialta in November and stayed until April 1st, 1983. Then I came back to Irma but still kept my room, number 27. I will return to the Lodge during the cold winter months where I have no snow to shovel and my meals are all ready on the table for me.

In June 1980, the Texaco Gas Company from Calgary asked to drill a gas well on the NE 11-45-9 and two years later the Kinsella Gas Company drilled a well on the SE of 14, my north quarter.

At the present time I am in good health and am glad to say I lived at Irma, Alberta.

BETTY (MACKAY) FORSBERG

Betty MacKay was born the second child to John and Jean MacKay and made the journey with them from Scotland to Canada. Following schooling at Glenholm country school, she worked locally for Hollinger's and Weisses and then at St. Anne's Hospital in Hardisty,



Eric Forsburg Family: Lorne, Wayne, Glen, Ruth, Karen, Betty (MacKay), Eric.

Alberta. In 1944 a career in the army seemed interesting but she didn't pass the medical entrance. She worked at Fluevog's for the summer then went to Camrose Lutheran Bible Institute that autumn. She continued at C.L.B.I. for three years graduating in 1948. She was then employed by the Bethany Senior Citizen's Home at Bawlf which was later moved to Camrose. She then worked in the Good Shepherd Lutheran Home in Wetaskiwin. While working there she met her future husband.

In 1952 Betty married Eric Forsberg, a Gwynne, Alberta farmer. Eric was a widower with three young sons, Glen, Wayne and Lorne. Two daughters, Karen and Ruth, were born to this union.

Glen is now pastoring a church in Steinbach, Manitoba with his wife, the former Lois Frivold of Tacoma, Washington. They have two children, Daniel and Karlene.

Wayne is in the dry walling business. He married Linda Myers of Kerrobert, Sask. and they live in Amisk with their children Trent, Carmen and Steven.

Lorne is an R.C.M.P. Corporal, stationed in Burns Lake, B.C. He married Rita McRae of Wetaskiwin and they have two children, Gregory and Laurie.

Karen is married to Derryl, of Derryl Toews Construction of Wetaskiwin and they live on an acreage with their two children Renee and Bradley.

Ruth is married to Eldon Langerud. They live at Ft. St. John, B.C., where Eldon is employed with B.C. Telephones. They have two boys, Derek and Chad.

Eric and Betty are still farming north of Gwynne, Alberta.

ALBERT EDWARD FOXWELL "TED"

written by Beverly Foxwell

Albert Edward Foxwell "Ted" as he was known to all his friends, was the fourth born to a family in the year



Louie and Connie Fornal (nee Owen).

CONNIE FORNAL (NEE OWEN)

I was born in 1939 in Wainwright, the last daughter of Leonard and Addie Owen of Jarrow. I attended Metropolitan school. After my father died my mother, brother and I moved to Irma.

I worked at the Viking hospital awhile, then went to school in Calgary. Later I worked in Edmonton. In 1959 I married Louie Fornal who lived west of Viking. Louie comes from a family of ten. After I was married I worked as a telephone operator here in Viking.

Louie and I have two girls and one boy and one granddaughter, all living in Viking. At the present time Louie is still working for N.W.U. and I work part time at the hospital.



Dianne, Dean and Cindy Fornal.

1887. After taking his education at Lyme Regis "Ted" moved to Canada in 1912, making his home in Calgary. Two years later he moved to Chauvin and soon entered into partnership with D.W. Parcels in the business of Parcels and Foxwell, a grocery meat market. He remained in Chauvin for something like sixteen years, and then in 1930 he took up residence in Irma where he conducted his own grocery, butcher and livestock shipping business. He married Miss Clara Allan at Winnipeg and they had one daughter Joyce born in 1932.

Mr. Foxwell spent all his life in the meat business, butchering and shipping livestock. He was an interested community worker, spending many years on the school board at Chauvin and acting as reeve for the village of Irma for some time. He was a member of the United Church, a Past Noble Grand of the Oddfellows Lodge and a Past Master of the Masonic Lodge of which he was made a Life Member.

In 1942 Ted retired and moved to Burnaby, British Columbia with his family, where he reached the age of seventy-two years. He passed away in hospital in Vancouver on August 24, 1959. Ted's wife Clara passed away in August 1977.

Joyce Foxwell married Ken Duncan and lived in Vancouver for many years, where she had one son Andy. Joyce passed away suddenly from cancer on March 3, 1981 after only one week of illness. Ted had one brother Harold Foxwell that came to Canada and lived in Chauvin and Wainwright.



Ted, Clara, and Joyce Foxwell.

WALTER NELSON FRICKELTON

Walter Frickelton was born in 1901 in Mertle, Manitoba. He moved west with his parents, two brothers and two sisters to Redcliff, in 1912. Then he moved to the north to the Hardisty area in 1918 where he farmed with his father, who was also a stonemason. A good deal of the stonemasonry work's still standing in the Loughheed-Hardisty area was done by Walter's dad. Walter completed his schooling in Hardisty and apprenticed as a druggist in McKinnell's drugstore. In 1924 he completed University in Edmonton and in 1925 he moved to Irma and purchased the drugstore from T.C. Derman.



Malcolm and June Frickelton.

In July of 1928, Walter married Mazel Murphy.

In 1931 the drugstore was lost to the fire that destroyed the whole southwest block of Main Street and for the next five years the drugstore was operated out of the north half of McFarland's grocery store. In 1936 a new store was built by a local carpenter, Mr. Simmons, on the original site and is still operating at the time of this printing.

In 1954 the drugstore was sold to Mrs. Lang and Walter and Mazel moved to Edmonton, where he later managed a Tamblyn Drugstore. In 1957 he purchased a drugstore in Vulcan and operated it for four years before retiring to Kelowna, B.C., where they lived for the next twenty years. The drugstore from Vulcan has been moved, restored and is presently the ice-cream parlour in Heritage Park in Calgary.

In 1982 Walter and Mazel moved back to Alberta and are residing in Red Deer.

To the union of Walter and Mazel two children were born, June and Malcolm. Both completed their education in Irma with June going on to the University of Alberta to become a Lab Technician and Malcolm (Red) taking employment with the Alberta Wheat Pool, training under Ole Nissen. After buying grain in a number of towns in Alberta, he was promoted to Public Relations for the Alberta Wheat Pool in 1972. At the time of writing Red is residing in Red Deer.

June married Ken MacDonald, from Vermilion, and to this union five children were born. June is presently residing in Calgary.

In 1957 Red married Maxine Fahner of Chauvin, niece of Milt Fahner, present manager of the Irma Co-op store. Red and Maxine had three for a family, two girls and a boy, Denise, Shaunna and Lewis, who are presently

residents of the Stettler area. In 1977 Denise married Fred Reinbold of Stettler and have made Red and Maxine proud grandparents of two red-headed granddaughters. In 1979 Shaunna married Allen Tremmel of Stettler. Both sons-in-law are building contractors, and son Lewis is in the same business, having finished his first year of apprentice carpenter in 1982.

NEIL AND ELSIE FRYE

Neil was the youngest son of Roscoe and Mabel Frye. He was born in the Wainwright hospital in 1934. He attended Crescent Hill School till 1947 when the children were bussed to Irma. Some of his teachers were, Mrs. Sather, Mrs. Enger, and Mrs. Glasgow, who was a trainee then. Some of his classmates were the Worthing children, his cousin Ruby Santee, the Steele children and his nephew Tim Worthington.



Neil and Elsie Frye's 25th anniversary, June, 1981. Chester Ford, Donna Ford, Elsie, Neil and David Frye.

He worked on the family farm and also worked out when possible. He worked with the crew that built the new Hi-way Fourteen.

I, Elsie, was born in the Chauvin area in 1934, the youngest daughter of Anton and Maria Schmidt. I was no stranger to some of the Irma residents. Gramma Mikkelson assisted my mother when I was born and was named Lillian after her daughter. I also went to the Green Meadow School with the Clisdell children before they moved to Irma. Mr. Bill Masson was the M.L.A. in those days and Milt Fahner worked in the local Red and White store in Chauvin.

Neil and I were married in June of 1956, and lived on the family farm. After our son, David was born we moved to Vancouver, B.C., but after one and a half years there we were certain that city life was not for us. We then lived in a small house trailer on Neil's folks' farm. Our daughter, Donna, was born at Wainwright hospital in April, 1961.

Our children had the privilege of hearing of the early settlers' history from their grandparents. Grampa Frye was an avid reader and a great storyteller and our children sat in awe when he told of his adventures. David

learned to enjoy hunting with his dad and grampa. We spent many evenings playing music and singing songs. David had his first guitar lessons from his grampa.

Robbie Jones was the school bus driver on our route and took both David and Donna to school in Irma. We always appreciated his ability as a driver when the roads were not too good at times.

In 1966, Neil's folks retired and we took over the farm. Neil had been put on permanent staff on the Department of Highways and in 1968 we purchased the ten acre farm site from Joe Burton. It was the farm previously owned by Mr. and Mrs. Mike Czeperak.

We built our new home in 1971 and later sold the old Czeperak house to a farmer for a shop. The children were able to have their horses and pets and were active with the school, the school band and church activities. Neil and I have always felt strongly about the spiritual need in a family unit and have been attending the Avonglen Gospel Mission Church. It is one of the few country churches that remain. We are thankful to be living in this community and able to raise our children and see them start their own new lives. Donna married Chester Ford in 1980 and moved into the house trailer in our yard. They are involved in farming. David has been working with different branches of the Alberta Government and has seen many areas of Alberta.

Neil and I had a pleasant surprise when many friends and neighbours gave us a surprise twenty-fifth wedding anniversary get-together at the Avonglen Church in 1981.

In 1984 Donna and Chester had a daughter, Lisa Marie.



Roscoe and Mabel Frye.

ROSCOE AND MABEL FRYE

by Neil Frye

Mabel Santee moved to the Irma district in October, 1906, with her father (William), mother (Rose), brother (Harry) and sister (Minnie and her husband Frank Domar) and grandmother (Rebecca Shea). They came from Warsaw, Indiana. Her father worked on the



Five generations: Grandma Frye, Leona Worthington, Tim Worthington, Debra Wallin, Mandy Wallin.

building of the train tressel over the Battle River and her mother cooked for the work crew. Later they moved to Wainwright and soon after her brother, Harry Santee, bought land and they moved to the farm, now owned by Ralph King. Her father was very concerned about hospital care and helped to organize the first hospital in Wainwright. He remained on the Board of Directors till his passing. Her brother Harry, did photography work in the area and many early family photos were taken by him. He later moved to B.C.

Roscoe Frye came to the Irma district in 1906 from Centrailia, Washington. He and several bachelors camped near a large slough north of Fabyan, and as far as I know it has always been referred to as Bachelor's Lake. He then built a pole shack on his homestead and proved up his land. In 1910 he shot a moose that was passing through which kept him in meat for some time. He shot rabbits for meat and sold the pelts for fur. He also shot a lynx. Roscoe was a keen hunter and enjoyed hunting till he retired. He enjoyed music and played the violin, guitar, ukelele and mouth organ. Roscoe, Neil and Leona played for many social gatherings. Roscoe Frye and Mabel Santee were married on February 21st, 1912, at the Clark Manor, with the Rev. Boothroyd performing the ceremony.

They then bought a ranch at Chesterwold, Alberta, where one of the first stampedes was held on their ranch. They lost most of their livestock during one winter due to the constant snowstorms, so they moved back to Irma and settled on Section 25 on the river hills above the Fabyan Campsite, which was C.P.R. land. They remained there till 1966 when they retired to Leduc where they purchased a house trailer. Roscoe took up Lapidary (rock work) during this time and made beautiful jewellery, which most of the family received. He passed away in 1968 and in 1976 Mabel Frye had her trailer moved into her son's (Neil Frye) yard just east of Irma, where she lived until her passing in January, 1980.

In the summer of 1979, she was able to take a trip out

to B.C. where she visited with Anne Santee and her family. She also visited her son Art and family at Cache Creek; her daughter, Leona and grandson, Tim Worthington and family at Kamloops. They were able to get a picture of five generations while she was there. She then visited son Len and family, and her son Herm and his wife who live in Edmonton. She took ill later and spent some time with son Bud and wife, in Wainwright where she was near to the hospital.

Roscoe and Mabel Frye leave one daughter, five sons and wives, nine grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren to carry on the family tree.

FUCSKO FAMILY

by Elizabeth Knudson

Andro Fucsko was born January 3rd, 1893 in Hungary. He married Barbara Krompak (born August 16th, 1900) in 1921. Steve was born on May 22nd, 1922. Elizabeth was born March 9th, 1926. Andro immigrated to Irma, Alberta in March of 1926. He left his wife Barbara, and two small children back in Hungary, until he found a place to bring them to. Andro worked as a hired hand for Allen Harper from 1926 until he saved enough to buy part of Allen Harper's farm. He sent for the rest of the family in 1929. Barbara was sickly and passed away April, 1948.

Steve started school in 1930 at Alma Mater and received all his formal education there. Elizabeth (also known as Isabel) went to grade nine at Alma Mater and took high school at Irma. She taught correspondence lessons at Education Point for one year and then in 1947 attended the University of Alberta to become a full fledged teacher. She taught at Orbindale one year and at Millet one year.



Andro Fucsko

In 1941 Steve joined the Army in the Royal Canadian Engineers and served overseas during the second world war. After the war he helped his dad run the farm, northeast of Irma. In November of 1947 Steve married Christina Atkinson. To them were born Clara, Ronald and Ralph. Steve farmed from 1947 until the present.

Andro moved into Irma in 1949 and took over Floyd

Fuder's service station on the southwest corner of Irma. He ran this station until June, 1978. Upon his retirement he moved to the Battle River Lodge at Wainwright. He took a trip to Hungary in 1978 (first time since 1926). He resided at the Lodge until October 13th, 1979 when he suffered a fatal heart attack. He was eighty-six at the time of his passing.

On January 31st, 1948, Elizabeth was married to Melvin T. Knudson. Melvin was born May 7th, 1923 at Irma and spent his childhood days in the Coal Springs district, where he lived on the Knudson farm with his dad, Martin and mother, Ethel, brother Merle and sister Helen. He attended Coal Springs School until grade nine and then attended Irma High school. Upon graduation he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1942 and served for three years. Shortly after being discharged from the service Melvin was in an unfortunate car accident and was seriously injured with a spinal fracture which has plagued him ever since.

To Melvin and Elizabeth was born Kent and Catherine, both were born at New Westminster, B.C. In 1956 Melvin and Elizabeth and family moved to Richmond, California, and then in 1960 moved to Phoenix, Arizona. The fall of 1961 the family moved to Snowflake, Arizona, where Melvin and Elizabeth still reside. Kent is living in Phoenix. Catherine is married to Bruce Leavitt. They live in Peoria, Arizona, and have two boys and one girl.

Steve and Chrissie's children all reside in the Wainwright area. Clara has seven children, Ronnie has two and Ralph has one daughter.



Melvin and Elizabeth Knudson.

HAROLD AND JENNY FUDER

by Jenny Fuder

Harold was born June 6th, 1911 on his parents' farm southwest of Irma in the Coal Springs district. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. N.L. (Nay) Fuder. He attended the Coal Springs School and later graduated from Vermilion School of Agriculture in 1932, then he took

over the farm operations after his parents moved to town.

I was born January 23rd, 1912 on my parents' farm six miles south of Jarrow on the western edge of the Coal Springs district. My parents were Mr. and Mrs. John F. James. After grade nine in the Coal Springs school I helped at home and also worked for several neighbor ladies as a hired girl.

At one home I made a raisin pie (my first). It looked ok but when the husband of my employer started to cut a slice he stood up and asked if he should go out for the axe. I am sure it was the worst crust ever made.



Jenny and Harold Fuder's wedding, October 28th, 1935.

Harold and I were married at my parents' home on October 28th, 1935 in the afternoon. The day started out sunny, but by early afternoon the weather changed and by nightfall there was lots of snow and wind. Most of the guests got stuck in snowbanks going home and had to walk home for a team of horses to pull them through the drifts. We stayed at my folks for four days and made the trip to the Fuder farm five miles east by team and sleigh. The horses found it a tiring trip because of the deep snow. We lived on the farm until the spring of 1967 when we moved into Irma, but Harold continued to farm and also hauled grain and coal for a number of miles around with the help of son Nathan.

We have five children, eighteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Warren and Pat (Patricia Cook) and their four children, live in Grand Centre where Warren is employed by Northwestern Utilities Ltd. Their oldest daughter is



Harold Fuder's children, 1975, Jack, Lorne, Janice, Nathan and Warren.

married.

Nathan and Di (Diana Eckstadt) and family of three live in Irma. Nathan drives a cement truck for Battle River Transit Mix of Wainwright.

Lorne and Barb (Barbara Murray) and family live on their farm south of Jarrow. They have five children. Their daughter Lori is married and has two little girls. She and her husband and girls live in Irma. Brian lives on his own farm and the other three boys are still at home.

Jack and Pat (Patricia Barnes) and family of four live in Victoria, B.C. where Jack is an Automobile Insurance Adjuster for I.C.B.C.

Janice, our daughter, graduated from Irma High School in 1975 after which she entered the School of Psychiatric Nursing at Alberta Hospital Edmonton (Oliver) where she graduated from in 1977 as a Psychiatric Nurse and is still employed there. She is married and has two children.

We are retired and enjoy living in the Village of Irma.

LORNE FUDER FAMILY

Lorne Fuder was born in 1939 in Wainwright. He attended Coal Springs school until he was in grade 5. Then he and his brothers biked to Glenholm for grades 6 and 7, then back to the small Coal Springs school south of their farm for grades 8 and 9. For grades 10 and 11 he went to Irma High School. In 1957 Lorne and his brother Jack went to Wainwright and worked with Taylor & Reynolds Construction, then in 1958 he started working for Deleff Motors.

In high school Lorne and I started going together in grade 9. After graduation I went to Edmonton to take a nurses aide course. In May of 1959 we were married. We lived in Wainwright where Lorne was employed until 1966, when we moved to the farm south of Jarrow.

Laureen was our first baby born in 1959. Brian was born December of 1960. Murray was born in July of 1963. In December of 1968 we became foster parents to a 9 month old baby boy who in July of 1969 we adopted named Stacey Allan. In 1970 Marvin was born in Wainwright.

After graduation from Irma School, Lori went to the city to work, where she met Gary Barber from Wainwright. In 1980 they were married in Wainwright and have two little girls added to their family. Tennille is 2 and Carmen Ashley is 9 months.

When Brian graduated from high school he tried working in the city but found city life was not for him. He came home and bought some land and started to farm. He owns the land formerly owned by Gilbert Lovig. At present Brian is living in Wainwright and is working on the oil rigs. He is engaged to be married in February of 1984.

Murray is at present farming with his dad and will eventually take over the family farm. At this time Stacey and Marvin are still in school being in grade 10 and 8 respectively.



Lorne and Barbara Fuder.



Brian, Murray, Lori, Marvin and Stacey Fuder.

MR. AND MRS. NATHAN LAWRENCE FUDER AND FAMILY

Nathan Fuder, known as Nay and Miss Minnie Louisa Knudson were married in Minnesota, U.S.A. on January 7, 1909 and that same spring moved north to Alberta

Canada. They homesteaded in the Coal Springs School district seven miles southwest of Irma. Like most of the settlers in those early years they found it difficult, trying, tiring and certainly a gamble to establish a home with improved acreage in an area new to them and miles from the railway and their village. To mention only a few factors or hardships - there were prairie fires, predators sneaking about to destroy their domesticated animals and fowl that they raised, kept and treasured, and many long days of hard work clearing the areas for fields and gardens. Their determination and efforts paid off and soon they were living in a community they loved and cherished for many years. "A friend in need was a friend



Mr. and Mrs. N.L. (Nay) Fuder's wedding, January, 1909.

indeed". The neighbors worked together in such a special way and with that certain consideration that one might say they were Good Samaritans. The community flourished.

This couple farmed in this area until 1937, when Harold E. Fuder, the elder son, took over the farming responsibilities. Mr. and Mrs. Fuder moved into the village of Irma, living in different homes before buying a resale home in 1941. This home as well as the one built in 1928 on the homestead site are still in fair condition.

In these earlier days many miles had to be covered to attend a Worshipping Service. These Services were held in a number of the homes and in the schools in this community throughout the early years. During the summer of 1933, the Sharon Lutheran Church was built on the N.E. quarter of School land. Many volunteer hours of hard, dedicated work continued for days and weeks along with donations and contributions by settlers of this com-

munity. Our fathers, mothers, relatives and friends greatly assisted those responsible in completing a required Worshipping Centre. This Church stands today in good condition. Many of our early settlers who so generously helped in so many ways, from the commencement until the final stages in the building of this church have been taken from us, but they will not be forgotten. The younger generations will be thankful that "Dad and Mother, Granddad and Grandmother, and Great-Granddad and Great-Grandmother cared. Both Nathan and Minnie were active members of Sharon Lutheran Church.

Mr. Fuder was a member of the first Irma Band. After moving into the village of Irma Mr. Fuder was a mail carrier on the north routes for several years; he also assisted the grain buyer at the U.G.G. elevator. Mrs. Fuder was always busy in a considerate and caring manner. A family of ten children reduced to six by deaths, does find a mother and wife up early in the mornings and still doing many things about the home into the late hours of the night. Minnie was active in church activities, the Ladies' Aid Group, visiting with the surrounding neighbors and assisting Nay with his duties when he served on the school board and supported the road construction and repair work construction gangs and crews.

Mr. and Mrs. Fuder had ten children; one daughter (the first born) Mabel, and nine sons, Harold, Lloyd and Lester (twins), Wilbert, Floyd, Roy, Earl, Lawrence and Walter. These children were all born on the farm as many of the children were back in those early homesteading years. Wilbert died as the result of an accident which occurred on the farm while he was quite young. Lloyd, Lester and Walter died in infancy.

Mabel Lillian married Mr. Obert Lovig and had twelve children, six sons and six daughters. They lived in the Irma area all of their married days. Mabel presently lives in her home in Irma.

Harold Edgar married Miss Jenny James and four sons and one daughter were born to them. Harold and Jenny are living in Irma.

Floyd Albert married Miss Ruby James and they have six children in their family. Floyd and Ruby live on their farm west of Irma, south of the railway.

Roy Murray married Miss Jean Whidden. They have two children, one daughter and one son both living in Ontario in the Ottawa area. Roy and Jean are presently living in Carlton Place, Ontario, in the summer months and travel to Florida, U.S.A. for the winter months.

Earl Leroy married Miss Urma Orr. Three children were born to them - two daughters and one son. Earl and Urma presently live in Red Deer, Alberta in the summer months and travel to Arizona, U.S.A. for the winter months.

Lawrence Nathan married Miss Helen Lindquist and they have two sons and one daughter. Lawrence and Helen presently live west of Edmonton at Lac St. Anne near Onoway.

Many of the early settlers and homesteaders in this area with families certainly know the amount of consideration and sincere efforts that had to be given in raising a family and making a go of it - after breaking the sod and



Five generations, October 27, 1981. Mr. Nathan Fuder; son Harold; grandson Lorne; great-granddaughter Lori (Fuder) Barber; and great-granddaughter Tennille Alana Barber, five days old.

building a home. The Fuder family is only one of this group that are very thankful that their parents were just as strong in their minds as they were in their determined ways with hard work, to establish a flourishing community. God Bless the "Early Settlers".

Mrs. Fuder passed away in 1942, the day after her fifty-second birthday and Mr. Fuder passed away in 1982, after reaching his ninety-seventh birthday. Both Mr. and Mrs. Fuder were laid to rest in the Irma Cemetery where family plots were located many years ago.

RAYMOND AND MARIE FUDER

Raymond Fuder and Marie Christenson were married in 1915 at the Christenson home. Clifford Leroy was born December 24th, 1916 and Myrtle Helen was born in 1918. Myrtle passed away at the age of eight years as a result of being hit in the back of the neck with a baseball.

Marie and Ray moved from farm to farm until Ray's health started to deteriorate and he was unable to work anymore. At one time they lived on the Tom Woods farm and also the Earl Moore farm, during which time Clifford attended Batt school. When Ray's illness forced him to quit work they moved to Irma where Marie did housework for others for years. Clifford attended a Bible College. He too had the same crippling disease his father had. He also lost the fingers on one hand in a circular saw accident. The family moved to Wainwright where Clifford worked at the Army camp for several years. After Ray's death in 1954 and with Clifford's poor health, Marie and Clifford moved into Battle River Lodge where they lived for several years before their death. Marie passed away in 1972 and Clifford in 1973.

Marie was a very sincere Christian woman which was her help through all the hardships she had to face with death and an unhealthy family. While living in Irma they

attended the Alliance Church but after moving to Wainwright they joined the Pentecostal Church.



Raymond and Marie Fuder.



Clifford and Myrtle Fuder.

PETER H. FUNK - DREAM RANCH IN ALBERTA

by Sherrilee Fischer

My story begins, as perhaps many farm stories do, with a young man in the early 1900's riding the range, working cattle and dreaming his dreams. Born in 1896 in Plum Coulee, Manitoba, to parents of Dutch ancestry, Peter Funk was the sixth child of a family of ten children. Pete, as he is known to his family and friends, lived with his family in Rowfarm, Manitoba until he was about eleven years old. The family then moved to Herbert, Saskatchewan. Here Pete worked at home and at the nearby Matador Ranch as a cowhand.

Although they differ in their way of telling, my grandparents met in 1917 at the Waldeck post office. I recall Grandma telling me she didn't want to get married, even though at age nineteen she was quite old to be still

single. Anyway, Pete persisted until his lady love, Gertrude Veer, finally consented to be his bride. Grandpa Pete tells me he kept trying to save enough money to get married and finally decided it was taking too long. He says now if he would have married Gertie in 1919 he wouldn't have had to spend his savings on a hired man. At any rate they were married July 26th, 1922.

Pete and Gertie tried farming in Saskatchewan, moving from one rented farm to another. They finally decided it was time to come to Alberta. By this time they had three children, Nora (my mother), Betty and Larry. They had spent twenty-three years saving money, raising and educating their children and holding fast to their dream of a ranch in Alberta.

An ad in either the Free Press Prairie Farmer or the Western Producer brought the family to Irma, Alberta in the summer of 1945 to see Art Blakely and his ranch in the Strawberry Plains district. My Mother tells me of that trip. One of the highlights was a stop they made at a picturesque spot alongside a creek. She remembers it as one of the prettiest spots they'd seen. That spot is just North and East of Hardisty, and over the years has acquired a very bumpy road beside it, a not so straight bridge over it, and a definite shortage of trees around it. I pass it many times spring and fall on my way for machinery parts and try to picture that family camping there.



Pete Funk family camping at Iron Creek, 1945, en route to Irma.

Grandpa Pete and Mr. Blakely completed the deal for the farm and arranged for the transfer of ownership that fall. The Funk moving van consisted of a Case D tractor towing a binder, a wagon, and a separator at a speed of fifteen miles per hour for that three hundred mile trip. Larry and a friend, Henry Reimer, drove as far as Kyle and after being checked over completed the journey. The rest of the family travelled by car and truck with the remainder of their belongings. The move took two days. They took possession of their "Dream Ranch in Alberta" in September, 1945. Grandma was very proud of her new home with its polished hardwood floors and brick fireplace.

The first few years the family worked hard to finish paying for the ranch. Any money owed those days wasn't easily put out of mind, though Grandpa often says now that he should have borrowed more money to expand the farm. However, that wasn't done and with careful

management the heavy debt load of three thousand dollars was soon lifted. The interest rate on that debt was three percent. Times have certainly changed.

Grandpa had his own threshing outfit and threshed for neighboring farms. His crew consisted of himself, Larry, Henry Reimer and various young men in the community. Among them were Eddy, Albert and Art Jackson, Lawrence and Ivan Johnston, Jack MacKay and an uncle of Jack's.

The second winter Grandma and Grandpa spent two months living in a log house on the riverbank in order to feed cattle. Larry and Betty remained at the main house to look after chores there. The remains of an old log barn and the roof of that log house can still be seen down by the river just south of the corrals used to work cattle.

Grandpa and Uncle Larry purchased more land later, and eventually the ranch became a mixed farm of fourteen quarters of land. Ever a cowboy at heart, Grandpa built up his cattle operation and spent many hours in the saddle overseeing his herd as they grazed throughout the Battle River valley land of the ranch. Grandma also enjoyed riding and spent many an hour on horseback picking saskatoons, chokecherries and pincherries or checking the cattle. She knew the cattle well and to this day enjoys watching ranch activities. Cooking was not her favorite activity and although I remember fresh buns hot from the oven filled with jelly, and giant cookies, she tells me she was always happier working outside. One exception may have been the day she decided to walk through the corrals checking new calves and one overprotective new mother speedily assisted her exit - over the corral fence. I recall mention of a bucket of eggs being safely dispatched over the fence with her but can't get a confirmation of that.

Grandma and Grandpa's closest neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Art Long, about one-quarter mile down the road. They exchanged visits often with them and with many other neighbors as well - Wes Bacons, Jim Jacksons, Frank Weiss', Sid Johnstons. One winter they got involved quite seriously in a canasta craze with the neighbors. In the summer Grandma liked to walk to Mrs. Long's for a visit, I remember walking with her on some of those visits. A neighbor tells me Grandma was the first president of the Strawberry Plains W.I. Grandma also used to play piano for the Church services at Strawberry Plains, to which she sometimes walked; sometimes she got a ride with Rev. Inglis.

Grandpa's ranch was involved when the Dept. of National Defence expropriated land in 1954. Consequently the ranch now has grazing rights in the Wainwright Military area. Working corrals were built around 1951 down by the river, east and south of the ranchhouse. Annual roundups, spring and fall were times of hard work and camaraderie. Neighbors and relatives all pitched in to round up cattle and sort them out. When it came time to vaccinate, dehorn and castrate calves there was a lot of fun - especially if there happened to be a "greenhorn" around. These roundups continue today and although the corrals have been rebuilt and changed, the work and fun is much the same.

There was often a campfire, sing-a-long, and swimming down at the river when family and friends gathered.



Aerial photo of Funk Ranch about 1950.

Relatives were never in short supply and many played musical instruments. Grandma and Grandpa are both from families of ten children. Four of the Funk children married four of the Veer children. The families were both of Dutch descent and many of them retained their original language. Trying to explain the relationships is beyond my scope, but two of Grandma's brothers, Bill and Jack Veer also moved to the Irma area. Family in this area included Bill and Effie Ewert (now of Wainwright); Art and Florence Ewert (Florence and family now at Spruce Lake, Saskatchewan and other points) and Jim and Vi Owen. Many Christmas Eves and Easter Sundays were spent at Grandpa's ranchhouse. Easter Sunday ball games in the pasture were great fun. To this day I wonder how they managed to squeeze us all into that house.

Both Nora and Betty were married soon after coming to Alberta. Nora had come to join the family in July, 1946 with full intention of ranching with Grandpa. She had been teaching at Funk school near Main Centre but had acquired some cattle and decided to quit teaching.

However, she was persuaded to teach school at Roseberry. She met Jack Taylor at a social function at the school and they were married at Grandma and Grandpa's home on October 25th, 1947. (See J.A. Taylor History).

In 1950 on November 3rd and 4th Betty married Les Tindall from the Passchendale district. The November 3rd and 4th date is an interesting argument between Les and Betty and the family enjoys listening to the story. Betty assures us she was married November 3rd, but Les delights in insisting it was the 4th. Those Tindall-Funk weddings were at the Irma United Church.

Larry continued farming with Grandpa until 1963. In that year Grandma and Grandpa moved to Wainwright. They bought a house on second Avenue East from Mr. Sather. Mr. Sather had built the house, lived in it awhile and sold it when he had another one built and ready to move into. He was the father of the well known Glen Sather. Although Grandma and Grandpa were supposed to be retired, Grandma proceeded to get a job at the Wainwright Hospital, where she worked for many years. Grandpa continued to help out at the ranch.

In that year, 1963, Larry married Irma Guy. They farmed for some time but Larry's health deteriorated rapidly and he was diagnosed as having multiple sclerosis. Finally he was unable to farm and his marriage also failed. In 1969 he moved into Wainwright with his folks, where he maintained many friendships until his death October 16th, 1972. I remember him as a cheerful man who loved music and people. He played many musical instruments well and sang either solo or with friends. Larry, Bill Ewert, Mom (Nora) and Betty sang as a quartet for many years. I learned to love many gospel songs listening to them practise.

Grandpa's dream ranch remained intact. Betty and her husband and family moved to the ranch and operated it along with their own farm in Passchendale and some land at Fabyan. Their eldest son, Peter purchased some of the



Family Picture - July 1982. Donna Taylor, Gordon Fischer, Bonnie, Lorie, Marvin, Jack and Harvey Taylor, Dale Wallwork, Bob, Gwen, Dale, Colleen, Peter, Les and Bill Tindall, Edith and Brian Perron. Middle Row: Sherrilee Fischer holding Bryan Fischer, Nora Taylor, Jay Wallwork, Amy Wallwork, Margery Wallwork, Lee Wallwork, Gertrude Funk, Peter Funk, Betty Tindall, Elaine Tindall. Front Row: Alana Fischer, Joelle Fischer, Sharina Fischer, Angela Perron, Nathan Perron, Joyleen Tindall.

farm, Les purchased some, and the rest they farmed under an agreement with Grandpa. As I was in Edmonton at that time, I must leave this story to Aunt Betty's pen ... (See Les Tindall story).

ALEXANDER GALE

Alexander Gale was born August 24, 1863 in Mount Albert, Ontario. He came to Winnipeg in 1888.

Marian Davidson Clarke was born April 18, 1866 in Montreal. She lost both her mother and father at the age of thirteen and moved to Winnipeg with her grandmother, Mrs. Brownlee, wife of Sir Robert Brownlee. She married Alexander Gale in 1891 in Morden, Manitoba. At this time Alexander Gale was working for the Grand Trunk railroad. They had six children, five girls and one boy. They were William, Mary, Charlotte, Ellen, Ida and Marian Bertha who died in infancy.

These were trying times as they lived in the midst of the Riel rebellion. Mrs. Gale told many vivid stories of those times including one about her nearest neighbors being attacked and scalped by Indians. In 1909 they moved to Alberta to a homestead SE 28-46-9. They lived there until 1919. This is where George and Marjorie Fischer live. George is a nephew of Gordon Pettigrew who built the house they now live in. Some renovations have been made to the house since.

Charlotte married Gordon Pettigrew in May 1916. Mary married Tom Stewart in 1914.

Mary and Tom Stewart had two children, Thomas Jr. and Allen.

Gordon and Charlotte Pettigrew had four children; Marian, Esther, William and Virlie while in Irma.

In 1919 land was offered in the Wetaskiwin-Pigeon Lake area making it sound like the Land of Promise. Mr. and Mrs. Gale, son William and daughters Charlotte, Ellen, Ida and Charlotte's husband Gordon Pettigrew set forth. The men drove their cattle, one hundred and twenty head, overland while the women embarked by train.

They found accommodations next to nothing and no pasture for the cattle. The cattle had to be sold at a great loss and their dreams of homesteading came to an end.

Mr. and Mrs. Gale took up residence in the town of Wetaskiwin where Mr. Gale was Sexton of the First United Church until his death in 1932. Mrs. Gale moved to Ponoka in 1934 and lived there until her death in 1941.

Ida was married to Earl Berry in 1926. They farmed out of Wetaskiwin.

Ellen married Millian MacDonald in 1941 and lived in Ponoka.

Gordon and Charlotte moved to Millet, Alberta. Mr. Pettigrew took up draying for a while and then started building and contracting. They had five more children - Clifford, Nora, Harold, Gordon Jr. and Ida.

Many of the homes, barns etc. that Gordon Pettigrew built are still standing today to attest to his expertise. One son William has carried on the building tradition and like his father has built many buildings in Vermilion.

Charlotte Pettigrew made their home one of cheerful kindness. The door was always open and she never turned

down a helping hand. Her cooking and baking were famous throughout the town and a meal at her table was not forgotten easily. Charlotte was killed in a car accident in 1955. Gordon passed away in 1964.

THE GEESON FAMILY

Dorothy Bateman

Rev. J.R. Geeson, his wife Bertha and their three daughters - Eileen, Dorothy and Gladys - came to live in Irma in July 1929 and they resided in town until June 1935 when they moved to Didsbury. Rev. Geeson had served as the minister in the Irma United Church for that time.

He had come to Canada in 1907 to serve as a Methodist lay preacher in such places as Islay, Dewberry, Hardisty and Hastings Coulee near Forestburg. In 1910 he entered Alberta College, Edmonton to take preliminary studies before entering the University of Alberta in 1912 to study both Arts and Theology in the same three years, graduating in 1916 with both a B.A. and B.D. He was ordained by the Alberta Conference of the Methodist Church at Lethbridge at the 1916 Conference meetings. Late in 1917 he married Miss Bertha Allen and took her to live in the newly built manse at Forestburg. They served many Alberta communities such as Red Willow - where Eileen was born, Youngstown - where Dorothy and Gladys were born, Parkland, Delia, Alliance, Irma, Didsbury, Okotoks, Holden-Ryley-Bruce and Namao before retirement to Edmonton in 1952. While in Holden Rev. Geeson served the Alberta Conference as its President for 1947-48 term. After retirement they continued to serve where needed; at Wainwright as a temporary supply, and at Kirk United in Edmonton as an interim supply that saw the congregation duly constituted after much door-to-door groundwork and organization.

Eileen Geeson attended public school in Irma, and then High School under Mr. Stan Reeds. She also studied music in Irma. The Geesons felt it was important that their girls receive musical training. In those days of the depression this was a luxury that most families could not afford for their children, so teachers who would come to Irma were offered board and room at the manse in exchange for piano lesson fees for the minister's family, while a class of other pupils was organized from the community. Three music teachers are remembered from those years; Miss Jones, Miss York - and a Mr. Harper who travelled by train from Viking each week. The Geeson girls plus many other young folk in Irma had this chance for musical beginnings and development in the difficult times of the '30s. Eileen later received her ATCM in piano, took Normal School in Calgary, then taught for several years before her marriage to Mr. Albert Hogge in 1942. They have three children - Donna, Lorraine and Ronald, and live in Edmonton at 10851-149 St. T5N 3H4.

Dorothy, author of this account, also attended public school in Irma, and remembers very well her teachers; Mrs. McDowell, Mrs. Magrath and Mr. Martin. She had Grade nine in High School before moving to Didsbury.



Geeson Family: Eileen, Dorothy, Reverend, Gladys, Mrs. Geeson.

"I have many memories of Irma, that adolescent period of my life; - C.G.I.T. with Marjorie Locke and then Mrs. Johnson as Leader; - Sunday School with Mr. Stan Reeds as Superintendent; - the Junior Choir that got the giggles one Sunday as the Arnold girls' dog walked into church and right up the aisle; and last, but not least, Mrs. Locke as my Sunday School teacher. Then there was run sheep, run and hide and seek after supper with all the kids in town on summer evenings until Mum Geeson's voice called us home for bed. The lamp post in front of Arnolds and Tates was always home base; and soaping windows on Halloween and getting caught; the skating rink where I first learned to skate with such bruised knees; sleigh riding on what we called the high hill - it's still there surrounded by houses but doesn't look nearly so high; Saturday afternoons catching rides out of town, and then back behind farmer's sleighs; riding horseback at Eileen Robertson's; Sunday afternoon fun being to collect a gang and walk up the railway tracks to the trestle east of town; parties at the church; musical festivals in Wainwright; the Operetta "The Wedding of the Painted Doll"; Two fires - (1) when half of main street burned down, (2) the fuel storage tanks by the elevators which terrified me. I could go on and on. I still have close friends from my Irma days after all these years; to name some, Mildred Hill (Pill to me) and Ethel Tate.

After finishing high school in Didsbury I took nurses training at University Hospital, Edmonton and graduated from University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in Nursing in 1946. I worked with the Victorian Order of Nurses in Edmonton for several years. In 1948 I married Dick Bateman from Saskatchewan who had come to work in Edmonton and was a member of the McDougall Young Peoples group. We now have five children - Dianne, John, Paul, Mark and David. We moved to Calgary in 1950 where Dick had again found work in the aircraft industry. In 1962 Dick accepted a challenge to serve in the United Church as a Lay Minister. He served in this capacity for two years, then studied for ordination at U of A and at St. Stephens College and was ordained at Calgary in May 1969. In 20 years we served the church in such communities as Mayerthorpe, Three Hills, Halkirk-Gadsby, Holden-Ryley, Champion-Carmangay, New Norway-Ferintosh, Elk Point-Glendon, Edgerton-Paradise Valley - before retiring in June 1982 to 4711-45 Street, Camrose, Alta. T4V 1E1, Phone 672-7621.

Gladys attended school in the elementary room at Irma, finishing Gr. 6 before leaving for Didsbury. She, too, took nurses training later and graduated from the Calgary General Hospital. In 1945 she married a chief petty officer in the navy, George Switzer, who after the war finished technical arts teacher training and served in this capacity in Stratford and in Etobicoke, a Toronto suburb. They are retired now and live at 17 Rexton Road, Etobicoke, Ont. They have three children - Robert, Elaine and Katherine.

For me - Dorothy - Irma has always been a special part of my memories. We had a happy life there, even in the depression years. It is still good to renew old friendships in the community.



Louisa Barber, Gladys (Geeson) Switzer, Dorothy (Geeson) Bateman.

ALETHA GLASGOW

Aletha May Knudson was born April 2, 1918, the daughter of Christian and Ina. She took her schooling at Irma and Camrose Lutheran College. Aletha attended the University of Alberta and graduated as a teacher in 1938. At the end of a year teaching at Tofield she returned to Irma to assist her mother in the Post Office. Later she entered the Royal Alexandra School of Nursing and graduated in 1945. Aletha was Public Health Nurse in Wainwright until after her marriage to Albert Glasgow in 1946. During these years she continued her studies in music and was awarded the A.T.C.M. by Toronto Conservatory of Music.

Following her marriage she returned to teaching for a total of twenty-four years, concentrating on Home Economics and Music. Intent on improving her qualification she took evening and summer school courses and received her B.A. and B. of Education degrees.

In the Irma School she applied her music ability and through insistence of high standards developed a suc-

cession of school bands which became well known throughout Northern Alberta. Many students acquired an appreciation and a proficiency in music to last as a lifetime interest. She received a tremendous compliment by having the opportunity to serve on a committee of five to re-design the music curriculum for music education throughout the province of Alberta.

In the school and in the community Aletha gave unstintingly of her abilities and there are many who remember with gratitude her help in times of emergency and trouble.

Aletha was a Past Matron of Connaught Chapter of the Eastern Star, Wainwright and held dual membership with Martha Chapter in Irma. She was past president of Irma Legion Auxiliary.

Albert and Aletha Glasgow had four children - Margaret, David, Jim and Allan. Aletha passed away in May of 1974.



Aletha Glasgow, 1974.

GERALD AND GRETA GLASGOW FAMILY

Gerald, son of David and Saddle Glasgow, married Greta, daughter of Alf and Melissa Larson.

For several years Gerald did mine work, then later on he was employed in the Packing Plant in Edmonton. They returned to Irma to farm. He was also "Grader Man" for eleven years.

Five children were born to this marriage. Shirley, the oldest, was born November 21, 1940; Richard, born October 10, 1941; Robbie, born February 10, 1943; Vera, born December 10, 1945; and Betty, born August 28, 1949.

In September 1948, Shirley lost her life as the result of a house fire. Robbie, at the age of fourteen years, was killed by lightning in the Irma Schoolyard.

On July 31, 1963 Gerald died near Wainwright in a car accident. Greta is presently residing in Viking.

Richard married Stella Bridgeman in 1963. They live in Irma with their four daughters where Richard is employed by Northwestern Utilities.

Vera married Grant Haverslew. They live on a farm near Vermilion where they are kept very busy raising their family of five daughters and one son.

Betty married John Munroe and they live near Barrhead. They have two daughters and two sons.



In 1949 - Richard, Robbie, Vera, and Betty Glasgow. Brent and Darlene Hockett.



In 1948 - Albert and Gerald, Robbie, Shirley, Richard, Vera and Margaret Glasgow, Carl Lindbeck.

LILY (MACKAY) GLASGOW

I was the seventh child born to John and Jean MacKay and like my brothers and sisters attended Glenholm country school from grades one to nine except for grade two which was taken at Strawberry Plains. Glenholm was two miles across country from our home. We walked in the summer taking great care not to get too close to the neighbor's cattle for fear of being chased by the bull. In the winter we took to our skis. Thermoses carried in our school bags didn't always survive the trip. Joan and I would nicely master a certain hill when Don would decide that it needed the added challenge of a "jump" which he would proceed to build. Joan and I didn't make our own trail, we would always attempt the one that Don made. This often meant that we spent time hunting for skis that

went burrowing into the snow as we went "sprawling". No wonder that Mom's first question to us on arrival home was frequently "were you on time for school?" In really cold weather Frank would sometimes take Joan, Francis and I to school with the sleigh and horses.

The year that we went to Strawberry Plains we travelled by buggy in the summer and a cutter in the winter. Since there was only one seat in the conveyances, Joan and I sat on the feet of Nell, Jack and Don. I don't know which was the most cramped - their toes or our legs!

In the winter the Glenholm school was warmed by a big heater which stood in a corner of the room. Early classes were sometimes held gathered around the heat from the stove. Inkwells would often freeze and break, dripping ink on books in the desk as they thawed.

Early childhood recollections include lying in bed at night listening to the creak of the rocking chair and the click of the knitting needles. Mom stayed up late at night to keep the fires burning so the house wouldn't get too cold before morning. We had no furnace so small wood heaters and the cook stove provided warmth in winter. Even so, nail heads would often be covered with frost.

Since we lived five and one-half miles from town and had no refrigeration (except in winter) dietary variety was restricted if the weekly grocery shopping didn't get done. I recall one such week when Mom would jokingly ask before each meal "how do you want your eggs this time?"

Much time was spent in the summer picking and preserving berries. Raspberries used to be abundant in the ditches.

We often walked to visit close neighbors. Mom would tuck a ball of wool in her apron pocket and would knit as we went.

Following High School which I completed in Irma (what luxury to ride the school bus) I commenced nurses training. I graduated from the Royal Alexandra Hospital

and two nurses staffed the seven-bed hospital which served the mine employees and their families as well as an encampment of Dogrib Indians who lived nearby. We were located twenty-five miles south of the Arctic Circle and it was truly the land of the midnight sun. The mine closed six months after we went there so we returned to Edmonton. I worked on the Polio ward at the University Hospital for six months then the same friend and I went to Rankin Inlet on the Hudson's Bay, three hundred miles north of Churchill, Manitoba. Once more we were in charge of a seven-bed hospital which served employees and families of a nickel mine, and the Inuit settlement of about five hundred. We were without a doctor for about four months during which time we delivered eight babies, put in stitches as required and even pulled a tooth! We were in radio contact with Churchill hospital for any necessary medical advice and often escorted patients to Churchill Hospital by plane. In the thirteen months that I spent there I only saw two and one-half months without snow on the ground. I then returned to Edmonton to work on Pediatrics at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Realizing that God has a claim on our lives, I committed my life to Him in 1963. I later attended Prairie Bible Institute for four years, graduating in 1968. After working at Viking Hospital for one and one-half years I went to Dalhousie University in Halifax to take a two year course in Outpost nursing, midwifery and community health. Following my first year down East I was able to go to Scotland to meet the many relatives. The second year was mainly spent in St. Anthony, Nfld. except for two months in Northern Manitoba.

On return to Irma in 1971 I gained employment with the Minburn-Vermilion Health Unit as Community Health Nurse. In 1972 I was able to revisit Scotland. This time with Mom, Nan and Betty. It was their first return since 1926.

In 1978 I married Albert Glasgow. I am still working as Community Health Nurse.

RICHARD AND STELLA GLASGOW FAMILY

Richard Gerald, oldest son of Gerald and Greta Glasgow, and Stella Jayne, only daughter of George and Mildred Bridgeman, were married by Rev. H. Inglis on a very cold wintry day January 26th, 1963, in the Irma United Church. We rented an apartment in Wainwright where we were both employed - I was a Dental Assistant for Dr. Otto Hauck and Richard was employed by F.C. McLeod, Furniture and Funeral Home. Within a few months Richard's desire to be outdoors drew us back to Irma, where we resided in Isabel Hutchinson's house on 50th Avenue. Richard worked for his uncle Albert until he accepted a position with Northwestern Utilities the following year. I continued to work in Wainwright until November, 1963.

In a short time we were finding our little house was a bit small - our first daughter, Leigha Jayne, arrived on January 29th, 1964, and our second daughter, Leila May, was born on March 8th, 1965.

We later resided in the former Ross Eaton house on



Albert and Lil Glasgow.

in 1959. After nursing a few months in my training hospital, a friend and I went to Port Radium on Great Bear Lake to nurse in a Uranium mining town. A doctor



Richard and Stella Glasgow, January 26th, 1963.

50th Avenue and then in the Vic Hutchinson house on 53rd Street, where Archie and Peggy Fleming now live. This was a lovely big home so we added another daughter, Kelly Richelle, born August 1st, 1969. During the summer of 1971 we purchased property on the north side of town beside the George Theroux residence, where we constructed our present home. Our fourth child arrived on July 13th, 1972 and guess what - another girl, Kimberly Jean.

The years pass so quickly and families grow up. Upon completing grade twelve in Irma, Leigha attended N.A.I.T. where she graduated as a certified Dental Assistant in May, 1983. She has followed in her mother's footsteps and is presently employed by Dr. Don Hauck in Wainwright.

Leila May completed her grade twelve in Irma in 1983 and is enrolled in the Secretarial Arts Program at Lakeland College in Vermilion this year.

Kelly and Kimberly are presently attending school in Irma, Kelly in grade nine and Kim in grade six.



Stella and Richard, June, 1983, Leigha, Kelly, Leila-May and Kimberly in the front.

As a family we have tried to take an active part in the life of our small town and community. The girls participated in all school activities, including the Band as well as Brownies, Figure Skating, 4H Food Club, United Church Youth Group, ladies softball and Ringette.

Richard enjoyed many years of hockey and softball.

He is very involved with the Masonic Lodges and is also an active member of the Order of the Eastern Star. He is serving a term on the Official Board of the Irma United Church at present. In 1984 he will be honored by Northwestern Utilities as being one of their twenty year employees.

Other than being a full time mother and housewife, I have tried to do my share by taking an office job or just doing volunteer work in several organizations. First Irma Brownie Pack, Home and School, Figure Skating Club, 4H Food Club, Craft Club, Band-Aiders, Order of the Eastern Star, Order of the Royal Purple, Irma United Church.

As time flies by I hope we can continue to keep active and prosper in this community.

THE GLASGOW HISTORY

by Albert Glasgow

My parents, David Allen Glasgow and Sarah Jane Laughlin were born and raised in Cookstown County Tyrone, Northern Ireland in the year 1890. They lived a few miles apart and attended the same school. In 1907 mother came to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada with her brother Arthur. Dad came the following year with his brother Sam. In 1909 they were married.

In 1915 they moved to Irma to farm in the Strawberry Plains district. After two years they moved south of Irma to the present location of Jack McKay's farm. Seventeen years later they moved a half mile north to the edge of town, where they resided until their passing in 1953.

It would have taken a great deal of courage to come to the farm in those days with three small children and very little money. Gerald, Myrtle and Dorothy were the three children. I arrived three years later in 1918. My younger sister Irene was born in 1925.

The early years were lean but happy ones. There was a friendship and closeness with neighbors which the lack of time and pressures of our present economy have almost taken away.

Dad farmed with horses mainly. It was 1930 that he purchased a 15-30 IHC tractor. This was used for breaking land, pulling a power binder and threshing. The "hungry thirties" were a trying time when you received very little for your produce. We were more fortunate than many who "rode the rods" on our railroads about that time without a job or food. We always had our produce.

We in Canada today owe a great debt to that group of pioneers who sacrificed so much to develop this country. We are truly blessed as a result in this land of freedom and opportunity.

Myrtle Glasgow came to Irma with her parents in 1915. She was educated in the public and high school in Irma. In 1932 she married Bob Patterson of Wainwright. They had two sons, David and Hugh.

They farmed for several years at Hondo, Alberta, north of Edmonton until they retired and moved to Edmonton.

David is single and lives in Edmonton where he does bookkeeping and runs a delivery truck.

Hugh lives north of Edmonton on an acreage. He is a



Dave and Sarah Glasgow, Gerald, Myrtle, and Dorothy.

carpenter. He is married to Elaine and they have three children, Wayne, Bradley and Chad.

Myrtle passed away suddenly in August of 1983. Bob and David are living together.

Dorothy Glasgow came to Irma with her parents in 1915. She was educated in Irma. She married Chris Lindbeck in 1930. They had three children, Alfred, Carl and Vera. They lived in Holden, Viking, Wainwright and Irma. She and her sister Myrtle were quite active in playing ladies' softball for many years.

Alfred married Joan and after retirement from the Air Force they are living in Wainwright.

Carl was married. He was a teacher. During the Easter holidays of 1962 he was killed, along with two daughters, when a car chased by the police ran into them near Mannville.

Vera was married and lives in Edmonton.

Dorothy passed away in Wainwright in 1962. Chris is living in the Battle River lodge in Wainwright.

ALBERT GLASGOW

I was born in Irma in 1918. I attended the public and high school there. I was quite interested in sports and played baseball and hockey. We played tournament baseball in a radius of about one hundred miles with a great deal of success. I enjoyed that for twenty-five years. The hockey I enjoyed even longer, playing and coaching in Irma, Wainwright, Viking and Hardisty.

In 1976 I joined the Wainwright Oldtimers recreation hockey team. With them we competed in tournaments in Zurich, Copenhagen, Florida, California, Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria, Edmonton and many others for another six years.

In 1941 I joined the R.C.A.F. and after a year of training in Canada I graduated as a navigator. I was also trained as a wireless operator. I flew on operations in a two-man plane. The job was mainly anti shipping. We straffed ships with cannon and rockets. I took part in the D-day invasions of France. I was wounded with shrapnel but not seriously. I was a Flying Officer and was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross. It was a strenuous, nerve racking experience but a maturing one. I wouldn't do it again but I wouldn't have missed it for any price.

In 1946 I married Aletha Knudson. We shared twenty-eight years and had four children for which I am deeply thankful. She passed away in 1974 and is greatly missed. She was an accomplished and talented woman.

My daughter Margaret married John Wolosiak and has three children, Richard, Catherine and Robert.

David John married Gwen Kosoway, a pharmacist. He graduated from University and is part owner of a company that does oilfield servicing. They have four girls, Jennifer, Andrea, Patty and Kelly. They live in the Mill Woods district of Edmonton.

James Arthur married Alexa Avery. They are both teachers and live in Devon where Jim has taught for nine years. They have two sons Jeremy and Ryan.

Allen Robert is single and is presently living in Irma.



Albert Glasgow Family, 1978. Alexa, Jimmy, Gwen, David, Lil, Margaret, Albert, Allen Glasgow, and Margaret's husband John Wolosiak and grandchildren.

In 1977 at Christmas time I acknowledged Jesus Christ as my Savior and invited Him into my life. By Grace through faith He forgave my sins and gave me assurance of eternal life. It was a gift. He is my intercessor with God and through His power I hope to grow more like Him.

In 1978 I married Lily MacKay. She is a graduate of P.B.I. a Christian Bible school. She has been a great help in my Christian walk. We have shared six years and if God is willing we may be spared to enjoy many more.



Myrtle (Glasgow) and Bob Patterson with their sons Hugh and Dave.

ALICE GLEESON (FISCHER)

Alice grew up in a family of six on a farm north of Irma. She has fond memories of her school years riding horseback to Education Point for the first six years, then attending the Irma School for grades seven to twelve.

The fifties were good years. A teenager at the time, Alice recalls the baggy pants, the sweaters and the big skirts, the bobbysocks and the saddle oxfords. The singing stars Pat Boone and Elvis were the rage.

After graduating from Irma High School in 1958, Alice left Irma to attend University. In May and June of 1959 she was practice teaching at Giles School in a farm community north of Edgerton. The following school term she accepted a teaching position at Albert school where she taught grades one to three. Alice loved working with young children, and was happy with her work at Albert. However, she longed for a change and city life appealed to her so she accepted a job teaching grade two in Jasper Place. In 1961 Alice returned to University for another year.

In July, 1962 she married Kevin Gleeson, who grew up in Viking. The couple lived in Edmonton, Kevin working for Northwestern Utilities and Alice teaching at Hazeldean School.

In 1963 Timothy Kevin was born and a year later Kevin, Alice and Timmy moved to Legal - thirty miles north of Edmonton. At that time Legal, a town of five hundred was almost entirely French. About the only non-French people were the families of the bank manager and the Northwestern Utilities agent. However, newcomers were warmly received and included in all the social functions. The uniqueness of this French community made the years spent there an enjoyable experience. Kevin and Alice were eager to learn French customs and before long were talking with an accent and French expressions. Alice learned to make *toutiere*, a French pie recipe no Legal home was without at Christmastime.

During the four years in Legal there were two additions to the family - Terri was born in 1965 and Lesli came along in 1967.

In 1969 the family moved to Provost where they lived for the next ten years. The three children all started school in Provost. Alice was a committee member involved in organizing a play school for four and five year olds. It took a year and a half to get the school underway. Lesli attended the preschool for two years.

While in Provost, Alice and husband Kevin, were active members of the Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs for ten years. The two girls joined figure skating at an early age and were involved for many years. This of course meant that Mother was involved as well and many hours were spent practising, planning carnivals, test days and sewing costumes. Life revolved around figure skating - planning meals and other activities to fit around skating schedules. Alice and the two girls spent part of each summer living in a trailer while the girls attended a skating school.

In 1979 the family left Provost and moved to Lacombe. While there, Alice was employed as the librarian at the Lacombe Public Library. She enjoyed this job until the family moved to Wetaskiwin in August, 1981.

At the present time, 1984, Alice and her husband Kevin live in Wetaskiwin with their two daughters - Terri and Lesli. Their son Tim is studying Electronic Engineering at S.A.I.T. in Calgary. Terri graduated from high school in June, 1983 and is presently working at Safeway. Lesli is taking grade eleven at the Wetaskiwin high school.



Kevin Gleeson Family: Tim, Alice, Terri, Lesli, and Kevin.

CHARLIE GLOVER

by Evelyn Brink

During the summer of 1931, my grandparents Charlie and Eva Glover, my uncles Charlie, Walter and myself, Evelyn Mansfield, left the drought and grasshoppers at Hanna and moved to the Passchendale district. Charlie's wife Martha, and son Clarence, followed later.

Mrs. Cynthia Ballentine was my teacher during the two

or three months I attended Passchendale school.

We moved to the Avonglen district when my grandfather rented part of Grover Arnold's farm one and a half miles west and a mile south of the school. The first teacher I remember there was Miss O. Fischer (Darling). Others were Mrs. Murray, Miss Anne Kippen, Miss Dorothy Bates, and Mrs. Cynthia Ballentine - formerly Cynthia Leslie.

Schools have changed a great deal since the days of the one room schools. The teacher could have up to eight or nine grades to teach. School buses were unheard of. Teacher and pupils had to find their own transportation. Many walked, others used a horse and buggy in the summer and horse and cutter in the winter. Some rode horseback. The school barn was an essential item in the schoolyard as were the two outhouses. During the winter months school started at 9:30 a.m. instead of 9:00. The janitor was usually one of the pupils. He lit the fire and kept it going all day. He also swept the floor and did the dusting. Water was brought in by one of the pupils.

Eventually all the Glovers moved to New Westminster, B.C. Charlie Sr. passed away in December, 1953, Eva passed away in January, 1966.

Charlie Jr. passed away in August, 1977 at Hanna, Alberta. Martha and daughter Annetta live at Hanna. Another daughter Pat lives at Lac La Hache, B.C. Clarence lives near New Westminster.

Walter married Meta Cooper whose family also lived in the Avonglen district. Walter and Meta still live at New Westminster. Their sons, Douglas and Garth, live nearby. Shane lives at Abbotsford, B.C. Their daughter HUGHENA, lives in Edmonton.

I married Ernest Brink. We now live at Quesnel, B.C. We have three sons and one daughter. Gordon and Greg live at Quesnel. Glen lives at Terrace, B.C. LaVonne lives at Aldergrove, B.C. We have nine granddaughters and one grandson.



Les Elliott, Jack Glover, Russel Glover, Harold Glover, Adelaide Dootson, Mrs. Glover, Mrs. Janet McCartney and little Irene Dootson.

HAROLD GLOVER FAMILY

by Harold Glover

My folks came from London, Ontario in 1908 and took a homestead five miles north of where the town of Hanna now stands. It wasn't there at that time, as it was started, I think, about 1912. To this family six children were born, two daughters and four sons. Beatrice in 1910, Emerteen in 1912, Elmer in 1914, Harold in 1918, Jack in 1920 and Russel in 1922.

The crops were very poor especially starting about 1928 and they continued poor until 1931. My dad died from a long illness at the age of forty-six. In 1932 I quit school and took over the farming until the fall of 1934 when we decided to give up. I hooked up two horses to a Bennett buggy, tied two more horses to each one of the driving horses, tied three more behind and had a colt following. We got a cattle car and loaded up the cattle, also a boxcar with what little machinery we had. After three days with my Bennett buggy and horses we arrived north of Irma at my Uncle Charlie's. We stayed there over winter. In the spring we, Mother, Jack, Russel and I rented a section of land from Mrs. George Higginson. We farmed this for two years. Whenever we needed help we called on Roy and Chris Burton who were very good neighbors.

In the spring of 1937 we bought a quarter of land from the C.P.R. - S.W. 25-46-9-W4th with just a one room shack on it, so it was a pretty crowded situation. In the fall of 1940 we bought the N.W. 24-46-9-W4th, also bought a house and had it moved on our land. Elsworth Goodale did the moving. In the summer of 1941 Jack and Russel both joined the Army and then there was only my mother and myself left to do the work.

I bought my first car in the fall of 1941 so it wasn't so slow after that when we wanted to take a can of cream to town. Before that we were pretty lucky as we had good neighbors, Mrs. McCartney, Ed and Les Elliott, who used to pick the cream up quite often and also take us anywhere we wanted to go.

In the fall of 1942 we never got the crop off as the evening the threshers moved in, it started to snow. Ed and Les Elliot took the cattle and horses for the winter. I went to work in the coal mines in Drumheller. While there I met my future wife. After coming home in the spring and taking the crop off and seeding another, we were married in June, 1943. On the 30th of July, 1944 our first son, Richard, was born. On April 19th, 1948 our second son, David, was born.

In 1956 I started working at the Army Camp in Wainwright and also farmed until the fall of 1966 when I moved to the town of Wainwright and kept working until I retired April 30th, 1983.

Richard has been farming since 1966 when I quit and Dave owns Dave's Auto Wrecking at Wainwright. They are both married and each have two children.

My brothers were in the army for four years, overseas. Jack was married in Scotland and came back after the war. He stayed for about one and one-half years when they moved back to Scotland. They had three children. They moved from there to Vancouver, where Jack passed away at the age of fifty-two.

Russel also came back when the war was over. He went

to work in the Drumheller coal mines, and still lives there. He was married there and they have three children.

For entertainment in the summertime from the summer of 1935 to 1940 we had a very good softball team GLOVER-ORIELS. There was Elmer, Harold, Jack and Russel Glover, also a cousin Walter Glover, who was catcher. Others were: Albert Jones, Francis Meyer, Johnny and Killian Goodwin, Bob Whitely and a few others that also played one time or another. This team broke up when World War Two started as so many of the men enlisted in the Army.



Harold and Lillian with David and Richard.

RICHARD RUSSEL GLOVER FAMILY

Richard Russel Glover, eldest son of Harold and Lillian Glover, was born in Wainwright July 30th, 1944. He attended school in Irma, was involved with 4H and took part in Sea Cadets. He left Irma in June, 1961.

Richard tried his hand at various jobs all over Alberta before returning to Irma in 1965 to take a job as a painter's helper at Camp Wainwright. In the same year he married Marie VanDeRyse of Drumheller at the Knox United Church. They resided in Wainwright where Marie had transferred to continue her career with Alberta Government Telephones.

Richard Clayton Glover, first born son, arrived March 10th, 1966. In May of 1966 Richard went into business for himself as a painter and was called "Wain Art Decorators". When Harold and Lillian Glover retired to Wainwright, Richard took over farming the home farm on N.W. 24-46-9-W4th and S.W. 25-46-9-W4th. The barn was added on to and milk cows were purchased. On April 20th, 1967, Joseph Edward Glover, second born son, arrived.

In March of 1968 Richard and his young family moved to Section 15-45-9-W4th where he continued to milk cows and raise beef. During the 70's Richard rented farmland and in 1971 sold the milk cows. By 1974 he purchased Section 23-47-11-W4th north of Kinsella. Merland Exploration Ltd. approached Richard in 1979 to plow snow for their gas wells.

1980 saw the sale of the range cows and the Glover operation was strictly grain. Richard joined Elks and Marie joined Royal Purple in 1981. As both boys played hockey, Richard helped coach through the years. He was added to the Board of Directors of United Grain Growers in 1983.



Richard Glover family. Joey, Richard, Marie and Ricky.

FRANK GODDARD FAMILY

by Joan (MacKay) Goddard

Joan Mackay, sixth child of John and Jean MacKay was born at Irma. She took her first nine years of schooling at Glenholm with the exception of grade four which she took at Strawberry Plains. She went to Irma High School.

In 1954 she married Frank Goddard from Wainwright who is presently the Agricultural Fieldman for the Wainwright M.D. Joan cooks for the Wainwright Children's Centre.

The Goddard's have four children. Duane married Nina Christopherson and farms with his father-in-law at Wainwright, has four children, Hollie, Joelle, Terrill and Kyla. Bob married Tamie Eastman. They live in Rosemary and Bob works at the Brooks Wildlife Centre. They have no family. Beverly lives at home and is secretary-bookkeeper for Hap's Trucking. David is taking his second year of University in Camrose.



Frank Goddard Family: Duane, Frank, Joan (MacKay), David. In front - Beverly and Bob.

CALVIN AND IDA GOODALE

by Earl Goodale

Robert Calvin Goodale and Ida May Clark were born in Hamilton, Ontario in 1878 and 1877 respectively. The

family consisted of, Olive, Ellsworth, Dorlas, and twins Irvin and Earl all born in Hamilton.

In 1918 we moved to Irma to settle on Section 23-46-8 about three miles north of Roseberry School. We lived there for a few years and then moved to the old Toll farm seven miles northeast of Irma. Irvin and I got our schooling from Alma Mater School which was only about one mile south of home. My dad didn't have much land broken for crops so did custom work for other farmers in the Irma and Wainwright areas. He and Ellsworth and a hired man each with eight horses on a Van Slyke plow broke land to help make a living to keep the family. For three winters in the 1930's Ellsworth and Dad shipped a carload of horses and supplies to Cheechum about three hundred miles north and east of Edmonton to haul white fish from Buffalo Lake eighty miles to the railway. It was cold and a hard way to make a living as they had to make twenty miles each day no matter what the weather was like. My dad said he wore two suits of blue label Stanfield underwear and never took a bath all winter - just reversed his underwear each week. Everybody else got lice but him.



Ida Mae Goodale and grandson, Clark Figinshau about 1934.

In the late twenties Dad sold most of his horses and bought a 1928 Rumley tractor. With this he did custom work, breaking land and cutting brush with an A-type brush cutter on the front of the tractor. The idea was good but the tractor wouldn't stand up to that kind of work, and broke down a lot. In the thirties when the depression came they went back to using horses and broke land with twelve horses pulling the same plow they had used with the tractor. In winter we did custom work hauling grain for other farmers with three four-horse teams hauling about one hundred fifty bushels to a load.



Goodale family. Irvin, Earl, Cal, _____, Ellsworth.

We got lots of practice shoveling wheat as we had to shovel it on and shovel it off again into a boxcar and then shovel it to the back end of the boxcar. We didn't make much money but we sure worked up a good appetite.

Our mother passed away in July 1934. Irvin was married and living at home so his wife Ann was left to take over the housekeeping. They lived with us for a few years and then went on their own. My dad and Ellsworth and I were left to bach it. None of us was the best of cooks so it was mostly potatoes, meat and eggs. My dad came out to the barn one morning to help with the chores and said "I put the eggs on", so he was doing the best he knew how but they didn't turn out too well. My dad was always at Ellsworth and me to get married so we would have a housekeeper. At that time I had a girl friend, Marney Patterson, and my dad said there was five dollars for me as a wedding gift and it was very tempting. But maybe Marney figured it wasn't quite enough. So Dad married Helen Prosser and had a housekeeper of his own.



Ellsworth with 12 horse team on farm of Chester Brown in early twenties.

In the fall of 1939 Ellsworth and I came to Hamilton and finally joined the army and settled here after the war ended. So as my dad always used to say, "Things will be better when the sun shines on both sides of the fence."

In 1941 my dad moved to Hamilton and took a team of horses with him. He used his team to plow gardens and dig basements and made a living with them. He passed away in Hamilton in 1962.

Olive, the oldest member of the family lives in Victoria. She has a son who also lives in Victoria and a daughter in Calgary.

EARL AND ELLSWORTH GOODALE

by Earl and Lois Goodale

Ellsworth and I left Irma in 1939 to go to Hamilton with the idea of getting a good job in a factory. We saw lots of factories as we walked from one to another every day looking for work, but no luck. In the afternoons we would go to the show for fifteen cents, and put the winter in that way. I got a job in the spring in construction and Ellsworth got a security job with Westinghouse.

In 1942 I joined the Army Engineers and Ellsworth joined the Air Force. I went overseas in 1943 and saw some action in France, Holland, Belgium and Germany. I took a course in England on how to run and operate heavy equipment so ended up on a bulldozer during the war at the big salary of two dollars a day and all the mutton stew one could eat.

I got my discharge from the army in 1946 and started in the excavating business with a bulldozer. I stayed in that business for ten years. I married Nellie Barrick in 1950. I still don't have too many battle scars after thirty-three years. We sold our business and I worked for another company operating heavy equipment until I retired in 1979. We built our home in 1953 and are still living here in Hamilton -- better known as "Poverty Point".

Ellsworth's time in the R.C.A.F. was all in Canada. He was in the Service Police and served mostly in Clinton, Ontario with short duties at Camp Borden, Ontario. After his discharge he got his old job back and was a sergeant in the Security Guard at Canadian Westinghouse Co. Hamilton for twenty-seven years, retiring in 1968.



Irvine and Earl Goodale with team.

Ellsworth married Lois Shaw in 1950. He died suddenly on February 13, 1975. (From Lois Goodale's memoirs) — "One of the most exciting times in Ellsworth's life and of which he talked a lot was what he called the 'fish trail'. The Goodales shipped a carload of horses to Cheecham, the end of the railroad not far from Fort McMurray. They crossed the Alberta - Saskatchewan border and had camps on the Christina River and one or two lakes. Supplies were hauled to the Hudson's



Irvine, Ellsworth, Earl and Mr. and Mrs. Cal Goodale with green 1929 Chevrolet.

Bay posts and fish was hauled out to the railroad which was then shipped to New York. I believe they did this for three winters, 1927-28-29. Several men were recruited to drive the horses."

This is an article which Ellsworth wrote for the Free Press Weekly, September, 1970. It was used in the paper along with the picture of the twelve-horse hook-up. "Sirs: Reading your article in the Notebook Section of your paper, Free Press Weekly, issue of January 17th, 1970, brought back a few memories of my days in the West -- especially breaking of land.

In the 1920's we broke land with the old Van Slyke breaking plow with eight-horse teams. We had three outfits and travelled as a caravan for a distance of thirty miles surrounding the town of Irma, Alberta. We received from eight to twenty dollars per acre depending on size of acreage and size of brush. This area was open prairie and brush land of poplar and willow.

We started breaking land with tractor by 1928 but when the depression years arrived and gas and fuel was hard to buy, we reverted to horses.

This is a snap of a team of twelve horses pulling a twenty-foot Massey Harris tractor plow on the farm of Chester Brown, north of Irma, Alberta. We received five dollars per acre and plowed three acres a day."



1928 Rumley tractor, Ellsworth Goodale with twins Irvine and Earl.

IRVINE AND ANN GOODALE

Irvine and Ann (Prosser) Goodale were born and brought up in the Irma area. Anne was the fifth child,

second daughter of Margaret and Wellington Prosser, Irvine was a son of Cal Goodale - Earl and he were twins. Irvine and Ann farmed in the Irma and Wainwright districts until Irvine enlisted in the Second World War and was sent overseas. Ann and the three children, Garry, Margery and Lonelle (Lonny) lived in Edmonton until Irvine's return.

One of the highlights of Irvine's and his brother-in-law Pert (Percy) Prosser's army services was when they unexpectedly met overseas, in Europe. After Irvine's return at the war's ending the family moved to Dundas, Ontario, where Irvine was employed at Dofasco in Hamilton. Another son, Robert (Robbie) was born in 1953.



Ann, Irvine, Marjorie, Lonny and Garry Goodale.



Four generations of Goodales, Cal, Irvine, Gordy and Michel.

Ann and Irvine were happy people, seeing and enjoying the humor in a situation. Irvine was musical, they both loved to tell stories. Ann had a hearty laugh. She looked far and saw the good in people; made the best of circumstances as she found them.

One of their greatest joys was to "come home to Irma", on a trip to visit relatives and friends. Sadly, Ann died from cancer in 1968. Her family and friends remember her fondly.

Irvine, now retired, lives with Eva, his second wife, on an acreage in Wiarton. They spend much of their time gardening, square dancing, travelling and feeding the birds.

RILEY GOODRICH

The Riley Goodrich family were early settlers in the Strawberry Plains district. Little is known of the family. They had four boys - the youngest one was Donald. Riley was a great talker and liked to go visiting.

MR. AND MRS. W. GOODWIN AND FAMILY

Mary Hershey married William Goodwin in fall of 1917 and took up homesteading on the N.W. 34-46-7. They lived here with their family of four children: John, Killion, Donald and Thomas. They farmed this land for eleven years. In 1928 they bought the N 1/2 of 36-46-8 and moved their family here. Five more children arrived: Martha, Harry, Bob and two children died at birth.

Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin had a mixed grain farm with their cattle, pigs, chickens and pets. There were a few hilarious laughs of a few incidents after you saw that no one was hurt.

Mrs. Goodwin was a very busy woman with her big family, she always had a huge garden. I think they had the biggest rhubarb and raspberry patches I ever saw.

Mr. Goodwin held a position on the school board of Avonglen where the family attended school.

They enjoyed their cards and any entertainment they could come up with. Their door was open to friends and family. The tea-kettle was always ready for tea, coffee or hot cocoa and goodies of some kind to go with your beverage.

John and Maize (nee Davis) Goodwin were married around 1946, they have two children: Harry and Edith. John is a licensed Ham Radio Operator and resides in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

Killion married Gwen Inkin in 1945 and resided on the home quarter. They farmed with his folks until 1948, when they purchased the land from his father. Mrs. Goodwin and Bob moved to Wainwright where Bob attended high school.

Killion and Gwen had three boys. Doug who passed away in 1972, had his mechanics license. Gordon married Ann Park December 24, 1971 and they have two boys, Kevin and Trevor. Gordon has a mechanics license. Gordon, Anne and boys live in Edmonton. Barry is in Edmonton employed by Union Tractor.



Mrs. Lena Goodwin and Mrs. Ida Savard, neighbors of the New's.

Killion drove school bus to Wainwright for four years, from there to trucking and is now employed at the Department of National Defence at Wainwright.

The enjoyment of his days is his family and when he was coaching ball. Killion coached boys' and girls' ball teams in the Passchendale and Wainwright areas.

Don and Pat were married in 1945 and their family is Don, John, Garry, Linda, and Barbie. They reside in North Surrey, B.C.

Thomas and Phyllis (nee Alderson) were married in June of 1950 to this union there is Jim, Rick, Donna, Wayne, Bev, Brian and Randy. Thomas is employed at the Armed Force Base and is very enthusiastic over hockey, ball or anything that has to do with sports.

Phyllis has her R.N.A. and is employed at the Wainwright Hospital. She enjoys gardening and especially her flowers.

Martha married Leonard Mooney and their home is in Surrey, B.C. She has a nurse's training.

Harry married Mary Kortez in the summer of 1953. Their children are two boys; Bradley and Ed; and two girls; Denise and Yvonne. Harry and his sons each have an Auctioneer License. He is a Ham Operator and employed at the Department of National Defence at Wainwright. His wife, Mary, is employed at the same base and she takes pride in her garden and yard.

Bob attended University majoring in Industrial Arts, and is teaching Junior and Senior High School students at Wainwright.

Mrs. Goodwin passed away in the winter of 1968 and is laid to rest in the Irma Cemetery. Mr. Goodwin is residing in Victoria, B.C.

CALVIN GOULD

Calvin was born and raised in the Buffalo View school district north of Czar. In May 1943 he joined the R.C.A.F. and served in Canada at Edmonton, Calgary, Gimli and Souris.

He received his discharge in May 1946. Calvin married Laura Henry of Stoughton, Saskatchewan and they returned to farm in the Buffalo View district until 1959. In the spring of 1959 Calvin and Laura and family of four boys moved to the Stan Bridgeman farm in the Batt school district northwest of Irma. Goulds have always used Irma as their town. They are active in church activities, attending the Gospel Mission at Avonglen.

Calvin and Laura had a baby girl, Daphne, after moving to Irma. Their family of five consists of Hugh, married and living in Vermilion; Garry and family of Sherwood Park; Dennis and family of Morinville; Wilfred of Sherwood Park and Daphne graduating from Irma High School in 1984.

They have nine grandchildren.

GEORGE AND FAWCETT GRAHAM

George and Fawcett Graham homesteaded the northwest and northeast quarters of section 2-46-9 respectively. Fawcett was killed when kicked by a horse and was buried in the Irma Cemetery. George went to the

Battle Heights District where he met and married Sarah Adams, Hugh Adams' sister and moved to California.

George and Sarah had an orchard where they grew avocados. They never had children.

They lived to a ripe old age. George passed away about 1965 and Sarah shortly afterwards. They left quite a fortune to be used by young people who needed it to educate themselves.

Sarah was an aunt of Joy King. Muriel Thurston now makes her home on the former George Graham homestead.

BARLOW GRANGER FAMILY

by Ruth (Granger) Boyd

Barlow and Helen Granger and their sons Oscar and Leroy came to the Irma district around 1918 or 19 to farm and ranch. Originally they had come from Barnesville, Minnesota in 1906 with his dad to Galahad to homestead.

They settled in the Willowview district on 8-48-9. Today this land is owned by Phil Holt. His close neighbors were Shippys, Jack Days, Garet Breckenridge and others.

Barlow was very fond of horses and had good saddle horses - Toots and Barney are the ones I remember best. He drove the mail from Kinsella on the rural mail route. They used to go to dances where Barlow acted as floor manager and called the square dances.

When they left they moved to Onion Lake, Saskatchewan but didn't stay long before they moved back to Galahad where they bought his dad's livery barn and dray line. They later moved to Oliver, British Columbia.

Three more children Aldred, George and Lorraine were born to them. Barlow worked for the town as well as in the orchards. Both Barlow and Helen are deceased. Oscar and George live in Oliver while Leroy lives in Hedley, British Columbia. Leroy married Jean Turnbull from Kinsella.



Uncle Bill, Roy, Mae and Lloyd Granger.

THE ROY GRANGER FAMILY

by Ruth Granger (Boyd)

Altho' we were not amongst the first families to settle in the Batt district, we had heard many nice things about it for years. Roy's brother Barlow and his wife Helen had lived north of Batt district years before in about 1917. They lived close to Claude Shippy's and farmed and raised cattle. They told us so much about the country, the neighbors, and also what a wonderful opportunity one would have to make a home there with so much open range and water for range stock. Barlow later moved back to Galahad and took over his dad's livery barn and dray line.

Roy and I were married in 1925 at Galahad. He was living at home and driving a school van. We lived there on the farm with his folks the first few years and helped them farm and drive the van. We milked cows too, so we were able to save up some money to get a home for ourselves. After hearing so much about the north country, we decided to go and see it. We bought a place north of Jarrow and east of Kinsella on the correction line, about two and one-half miles west of Batt school. We bought it from Frank Murray. It had a house and other buildings on it and a real good well, close to open range. We didn't move up though until 1930, our baby Lloyd was a year old then. We had horses, cattle, machinery and chickens. We moved with horses and wagons and had to make several trips. We were very happy to have a home of our own. The next year we bought a quarter of C.P.R. land across the road west and got quite a few acres ready for crop the following year. Also we had it fenced with a three wire fence and a cross fence across the south third of it for pasture.

We milked a lot of cows, from ten to twenty the year round. Joe Mac Holt traded us heifer calves for our steer calves the first few years, so our cow herd gradually increased and we had quite a herd of range cows as well as milk cows, our brand was **RQ**. We had a can of cream a day on an average, although sometimes it was only about twelve cents per pound for butter fat. We also sold eggs but when they went down to three cents per dozen we fed a lot to the calves in their milk. We raised good gardens and big ones. We always said one-third for us, one-third for the neighbors and one-third for the worms.

Our cellar was always full come winter with supplies, fruit, vegetables, jams, jellies, pickles and canned meat. We generally made a trip to Forestburg mine in the fall to get coal and used wood in the day time. We all had huge wood piles and had our own saw. The neighbors helped each other saw it up. We also sold wood in Kinsella - two dollars for a triple box load. We butchered our own meat, beef, pork, chickens and turkeys. We canned a lot and cured and smoked a lot. The smoked hams and bacons were good. After drying it we stored it in sugar sacks in the oat bin.

I also spent a lot of my time sewing. I made all of our clothes by hand the first two years when Roy bought me an Eaton sewing machine. I even sewed for the neighbors then, as they couldn't sew. Some would come and do the housework while I sewed for them. I didn't charge anyone.



Lloyd, Roy, Ruth, Mae and Diamond, 1946.

Haircutting and curling for them was another job. No one had any curlers so I made them out of narrow strips of tin out of the soft tin in lye cans. I wrapped them with several layers of brown paper and turned the ends over. They worked like the old kid curlers the older women had. Really they worked very well. We had nice neighbors and enjoyed them and had lots of company.

Mae was born in October, 1932. Both Mae and Lloyd were very blonde and curly headed. We were so proud of our little family. There were very hard times through the thirties. We all had to work hard to make ends meet. By now Lloyd was old enough to start school. Bill Kerns let us use their little black shetland pony for him to ride to school. The first two years he rode Tiny to Badger school, and when Mae was old enough to go we moved to Ezra Dennison's place and rented their land so the kids would be close to school. Nan Kennedy was teaching then. They both liked her very much. After a couple of years we moved back to our own place and both kids rode horses. Emma Johnson was teaching then.

We neighbored with Bridgemans, Holts, Lindbergs, Theroux, Millers, McNalls, McKies, Horineks and Campbells. We got the most of our groceries from Bill Boyd's store in Jarrow.

During the war we had quite an active Red Cross group in the valley. We had fun making quilts and playing cards for the group to raise a little money. We took turns having the parties and quilting bees. It cost ten cents each to play cards and we took turns getting the prizes. Our horses were really crowded sometimes, but we all enjoyed it and we always had nice lunches. We had Church and card parties in the school too. Lindbergs, Boyds and us became good friends. Our kids were all about the same age - Lindbergs four, Boyds three and our two. We spent many Sundays in summers at Blackburn Lake picnicing and fishing. The Lindbergs would take the accordion as they all loved to sing. They would be in one boat and we

older ones would follow behind and fish. We all enjoyed their playing and singing, and the fish must have too, as we caught lots. Then we would always have fresh fish fried over the camp fire for supper. Our two old flat bottom boats were a lot of entertainment.

Roy was good with stock and helped the neighbors brand, vaccinate etc. and each year worked on the road to pay taxes. He was road boss a few years too. The years of sleeping sickness in horses was pitiful, so many horses got sick and lots died. All had to be vaccinated for several years. A big nuisance were the coyotes. They killed many calves and chickens and turkeys.

Mae went to Kinsella to high school, up until we left there to go back to Galahad. After Roy's dad died we went back to the old homestead where we lived until 1973.

We had a sale before we left Batt district and on our last night there the Batt people gave us a lovely farewell, and going away gift. We hated to leave our friends behind. Kenny was six months old.

Roy passed away in 1973 with cancer. We had just moved into our retirement home in Killam six months before.

I am Bill Boyd's wife now and we live in his home in Wainwright.

DETACH BEFORE PRESENTATION	CREAM	SERIES 89	No. 839311
	NAME	F. Greenwood	
	ADDRESS		
	WEIGHT OF CREAM	42	LBS.
	TEST	38	%
	WEIGHT OF BUTTERFAT	11.7	
	PRICE PER LB.	14	GRADE A
	VALUE OF CAN	63	
	DEDUCTIONS		
	NET VALUE OF CAN		
DATE	1934		
BURNS CREAMERY			

Burns creamery ticket July 28th, 1934, can of cream was worth one dollar and sixty-three cents.

THOMAS GREENWOOD FAMILY

Thomas Greenwood, the son of William Greenwood (a local rancher and homesteader) was born and raised in a small farming community north of Kinsella. Most of Tom's childhood revolved around helping his father with chores and farming the land. He also was a saddle bronc rider and was a boxer in the ring.

As a lad of twenty, Thomas Greenwood courted and won the hand of Miss Viola Breckenridge in 1928. The



Tom and Viola Greenwood, 1955.

youngest of eleven, Viola was compelled to work as an adult, even as a youth, especially since her mother's death shortly after Viola's birth. Tom and Viola spent their first few years on a farm in the Glenora district.

Viola gave birth to her first baby boy, Robert Greenwood (Sonny) in 1929. A couple of years after this joyous occurrence, Viola had another boy, Bruce in 1931.

Tom and Viola and their two boys, moved from the Glenora district to the Echo Rodino district in 1932. They had bought a house at Minburn and moved it by horses onto the west half of 10-48-10-W4th which is about fourteen miles northeast of Kinsella. Here they lived for four years. Everett Greenwood was born in the house in December, 1933, it was sixty-two degrees below F. when Everett was born. Tom went by team and cutter to pick up Mrs. Allie Landers and brought her back to the house. She delivered the baby as she was a nurse. Everett weighed only three pounds, and the closest thing to an incubator on the farm was the oven door, so there he slept in a bassinet on the oven door, but he made it.

Tom ran the cream route for four years, picking up the neighbors' cream and taking it to Viking, also picking up their grocery lists and bringing home their groceries. Sometimes he had to take the team but the rest of the time he drove the truck. Tom had bought a new car back in 1928 for \$2,800.00 which he remodeled into a truck to haul cream to town.

Then in 1936 the family soon gathered all their limited valuables and relocated to a more preferable sized home on the S.W. 1/2 of Section 2-48-10-W4th where Alex and Helen Barker had been living. Helen is Viola's sister. After living on the new location for a year or so, which they were very pleased with, along came a very happy occasion, Viola gave birth to her fourth and final child, a girl, they named Lottie.

In 1937 Sonny and Bruce went to Echo school. Everett and Lottie started school at Echo. Then they had to go to Lynx. The year Sonny quit school, Bruce, Everett and Lottie went to Willow View school. Transportation at this time was by horseback. Completing elementary school, Lottie went on to high school at Irma, having to be boarded out in a family's home.

Tom had a threshing machine and did the threshing for twenty-three years for many of the neighbors. He also

sawed wood for many of the neighbors. One day while sawing wood Sonny fell into the saw and cut two fingers off, so Viola picked up the fingers, rushed Sonny into Viking and Dr. Hayworth stiched his fingers back on. Sonny was about eight years old when it happened.

John and Joyce Vandervaaite moved onto the farm that Tom and family had just moved off and they lived there for a number of years. Sonny Greenwood then bought this farm and still owns it.

After attending school at Irma, Lottie moved to Edmonton and took a hairstyling course and then worked at a well-known shop. A few years later, she met Don LaFleur and they were married on November 4th, 1955, and on the same day Everett Greenwood married Mildred Newby. They held their wedding dance together in Kinsella Hall.

Lottie and Don's first girl was born in 1967; they named her Cammy. In 1971 their second girl was born; her name is Kim. They later made a decision to move to Kelowna, B.C. They attempted to see their parents as often as possible which amounted to once or twice a year.

Everett worked for the M.D. at Minburn, for a couple of years before he was married. Then after he was married he worked at Hinton. The winter of 1956-57 they bought a small trailer so Mildred was able to be there with Everett. They returned to Minburn in the spring and Everett worked for the M.D. there until buying the farm. Everett bought Alfred Hogstead's farm in April, 1959, the northeast half of Section 33-47-10-W4th. In 1962 Everett bought a house, and while moving it to the farm, a car ran into it near Kinsella gas camp and damaged it a little. They got it on the foundation and remodeled it, and in a few years they built onto it. In the late 60's the Greenwood-Prosser Construction were moving a building Everett bought for a garage. Moving it with skids it shimmied too much on the gravel road and it fell apart, so it was pushed in the ditch with the cat and then burned. He built a garage at a later date. In 1971 Everett bought a building 32' x 110' from Camp Wainwright for a barn, and while the movers were loading it, the building fell off the truck and smashed. Good-bye barn. So Everett built a new barn. Guess he is not supposed to get things the easy way.

Everett and Mildred have four children; Shirley, Leonard, Betty, and Lottie. Shirley is married to Tom



Tom Greenwood cutting wheat with binder.

Nott, and they live on a farm at Innisfree. They have two boys Christopher and Michael.

On August 31st, 1956 Bruce Greenwood married Yvonne Johnston. Bruce bought the Vance Shippy farm in 1949. They are living on the Southeast half of Section 2-48-10-W4th. They built a new house in 1963 and a new barn in 1964.

Bruce and Yvonne have three children, Rita, Teresa and Harold. Rita is married to Brent Hafso and they live on a farm north of Viking.

In 1954 Sonny decided he would go out working for the winter, so his first job was doing chores for Bert and Mary Armitage. He enjoyed it there. He came home in the spring to work his land and put the crop in and also help Dad put his crop in. Next winter, 1955, he did chores for Clem Loughlin at Viking, nice working there too. The winter of 1956 he worked at Hinton and stayed with Everett and Mildred. He was roofing on a hotel and when that job was done, he drove a truck hauling mud for stuccoing houses. For awhile in the evening he would work at a garage fixing tires till nine or ten o'clock. While working at Hinton, Sonny had his car stolen, and it was about ten days before the police found it. It had been stripped. Sonny was lucky he had insurance on it and got it fixed up again. He worked till the end of March and came home. Didn't make much money but sure had a good time.

On August 8th, 1970 Sonny Greenwood married Margaret Zachow (nee Newby). Sonny bought a mobile home and moved it north of his father's buildings. Sonny and Margaret have two girls, Marlene and Lori.

Marlene (Sonny's stepdaughter) is married to Larry Mizera and they live at Edson. Larry and Marlene have two boys, Darwin and Michael.

In 1971 Sonny worked with underground telephone, up north around Boyle and around Spruce Grove, from June till the end of August. He enjoyed it as it was a change to be out with a gang. The rest of the time Sonny enjoys mixed farming right here at home.

In the fall of 1974, Viola Greenwood took very ill and on August 23rd, 1975 she passed away.

Tom Greenwood found a new companion, and on October 27th, 1979 he married Maxine Torrence (nee McNroy). Maxine's daughter, Kelly, is still living at home. She is taking her grade twelve this year.

Tommy and Maxine are still living on the farm and are semi-retired.



Moving of Speer's log house with horses. Roscoe Astley, Lottie Greenwood, Debs Faulkner, Tom Greenwood, Sonny Greenwood and Pete Hollar.



The Niels Greenwood-Madsen family. Left to Right: Irene, Tom, Bob, Jack, Linda, Niels, 1963.

NIELS GREENWOOD-MADSEN

Irene Burr attended Ross School, grades one to nine and Irma High School grades ten and eleven and in 1943-44 Alberta College in Edmonton, taking a business course.

In the fall of 1944 she moved to Ontario and worked at Ajax and in Toronto until the fall of 1945. After a brief stay at Irma she moved to Westlock, Alberta to work in the Bank of Montreal and later for the M.D. of Westlock No. 92. In May, 1952 she married Niels Greenwood-Madsen of the Westlock R.C.M.P. Niels was raised in Baldur, Manitoba and joined the force in Winnipeg in 1947. He was transferred to Westlock in the fall of 1947 and again to Mercoal, Alberta in 1952. Their only daughter Linda was born at Mercoal in September, 1955. Tom was born in Edmonton in January, 1957.

In June, 1957 they were transferred to Lamont, Alberta. A son Jack was born in April 1958 and another son Bob born in October, 1959.

In April, 1962 they were transferred to Lethbridge, Alberta. On the move again with a transfer to Edmonton, Alberta in November, 1965. In June 1967 they purchased a home in Sherwood Park, Alberta where Irene still resides. Niels was promoted to S/S/Major in 1971. He passed away suddenly in January, 1972. Irene started working in Edmonton in 1973. She is still with the same company in the capacity of Office Manager.

Linda became a respiratory technologist and worked for some time at the Royal Alex Hospital. She married Martie Klaassen of Fort Saskatchewan in April, 1978. They now reside on an acreage east of Sherwood Park with their two lovely daughters, Jacqui two and one-half years and Joni eight months.

Tom married Carlene Malychuk of Edmonton in June of 1981. He is graduating in 1983 as an Electrical Engineer from the U. of A.

Jack, the traveller, moved to Athens in April, 1981 and works for Challenger Drilling in Libya. From all reports he'll be there another two years, possibly living in Spain but still working in Libya.

Bob is busy trying to restore those badly dented automobiles. He owns and operates an auto body shop in Edmonton.

THE GRONER STORY

by Phyllis Lundie

My Mother, Dolly Groner remembers coming from Silverwood, Michigan in 1906 to Daysland, and on to the homestead of her two brothers, Arthur and Stanton Groner, north of Loughheed. The winter of 1906-07 they say was the worst ever (at least until 1982). Snowdrifts were so hard a team of horses and a sleigh could be driven over them. The men had to cut steps down and out of the barn to get the animals out to water. That was the winter that Uncle Harry set traps on the creek banks. One day out checking his trap, he had to bend way over the bank and look in underneath. A skunk, caught in the trap, got him right in the eye. Temporarily blinded, he was forced to feel his way home by his tracks in the snow.

The next summer, mother's family homesteaded four quarters south of Jarrow and they moved to what was to be known as the Groner place. That summer of 1907 when Dolly was two years old they built the sod house. Her family at that time consisted of her mother and father, Ida and Amos Groner, her brothers and sisters; Clement, Harry, Mamie, Walter, Ruth, Jessie, Francis, Bruce and herself. The other two brothers, Arthur and Stanton, of course, remained near Loughheed and Lydia was in Michigan.

The railroad was as far as Daysland then, and all their belongings were unloaded there. Their first livestock were the oxen with which they farmed. Jarrow, then called Jenkins, was their closest town. The nearest neighbors were Meakins, a half mile to the west, and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Firkus and family, one mile to the south.

In 1905 Amos and Ida with five of the children returned to Michigan, but Grandma felt she was too far from the boys, so the place in Michigan was sold and they came back to Jarrow the following fall.

The Gopher School (Metropolitan) was built in 1908 and the Groners built their wood frame house in 1910. (The present home of the Robert Bovencamp family.)



The Groner Family. Note the hounds and dead coyotes on sleigh.

My grandmother always had a garden, and my uncles always kept the family supplied with wild game - chickens, partridges, rabbits, ducks and maybe an occasional goose. Grandpa picked wild berries. He would



Lisson's frame house, Jessie's father, Amos Groner (centre), Stanley's brother far right, 1925.

go walking, and upon finding berries and caught with no pail, he would split the bark of a big poplar with his jackknife, the top, bottom and down one side. Then he would slip the bark off, tie grass around the bottom end and stuff the bottom with grass and he had his berry pail.

Mom's eldest sister, Lydia had been married to Bert Yakes in Michigan and they, with their children; Mabel, Frank, Arthur and Bill later moved here, too. Lydia passed away in 1928. Lester, a son had passed away in infancy in Michigan. Arthur Groner remained a bachelor farmer north of Lougheed until his death in 1943. Stanton married Florence Loades. Their family of six were born on their nearby farm. In the mid thirties they moved to Ground Birch, B.C. Stanton passed away in 1938. Harry Groner died in the influenza epidemic in 1918. In 1920 Bruce and Francis went by horseback working their way north to Pouce Coupe and Ground Birch, B.C., where they took up homesteads. Clem followed in the 1920's, then returned for his mother and dad who moved north in the early thirties. My grandpa, Amos passed away in 1937 and was buried there. My grandmother suffered a stroke and as Clem was a bachelor and unable to care for her, she returned to live, until her death in 1938, with her daughter Mamie in Sedgewick, Alberta. Mamie had married Tom MacGregor and they had seven children. Tom died in 1935. Mamie in her later years married Bill Goad, who also predeceased her. She died in 1978. Walter Groner married Marie Cole and they had four children. They moved north and later to the B.C. coast. Walter died in 1963. Ruth Groner married Jack Olson; to them were born three daughters. After the death of her husband, Ruth married Bill Hoffman of Sedgewick, and they had one son, William. Ruth and Bill moved to Chilliwack, B.C., and after Bill's death, Ruth married Tate Hotten who predeceased her. Ruth and her brother Clement passed away in Chilliwack on the same day, June 27, 1964. Francis Groner and Clement had both moved to Surrey, B.C. Francis was hurt in an accident and died in 1945. Jessie married Stanley Lisson. They raised three boys on their farm south of Jarrow, then moved to Edmonton and to Chilliwack where Stanley died after a lengthy illness. Bruce and his wife, Agnes, now live in Victoria, B.C.

My mother, Dolly, married John (Jack) Bovencamp a

neighboring farmer in 1922. They farmed in the Metropolitan District for many years. Here they raised their family of five children; Robert, Phyllis, Wilma, Francis and Viola. Two others passed away in infancy. Mom and Dad retired to Sedgewick in the 1970's where Mom still lives. Dad is in hospital due to ill health. More on this family in the Bovencamp story.

LIONEL GUILTNER AND FAMILY

by Doris (Guiltner) Weiland

Lionel and Laura Guiltner came to Canada in the fall of 1910 from Illinois. They settled three and a half miles west of Irma on the NE-24-45-9. Their first home was built of logs. Dad's first job was to break oxen to drive so that he could break land for himself and others. He lost three oxen one day and searched for three days for them. He found two but not the one with the bell on. Their meat, as it was for other settlers, was prairie chicken and deer in summer and rabbit in winter. Saskatoons and raspberries were their fruit.

Dad sold the farm to Mr. Henry Kasten. He said he wasn't a farmer and purchased NE-28-45-9 from the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. This later became the Canadian National Railway. They built a house, barn, fenced and broke the land to plant a garden. The road from the west was on the north side of town and in 1935 it was changed to the south side. Highway 14 was a gravel road for many years and in 1959 it was made wider, taking a portion of the property both times. It has since been paved.

There were twelve children: Lucille, Mike, Stan, Bob, Harvey, Clifford who passed away as an infant, Doris, Mae, Jimmie, Marjorie, Jean and Norma.

Dad started a dray business and was drayman for twenty years. Carloads of coal and store supplies were brought by train. The supplies were delivered to the merchants year round and the coal during the winter months to the merchants and residents for heat. Many times he would go back after supper to finish unloading a car of coal into a storage bin so the train could pick up the empty cars the following day or he would have to pay demurrage. Cattle were shipped by rail at that time and the cars were bedded down with sand. When the boys were old enough to help this made the work load easier.

Dad was mail carrier and used the dray at first and then a two wheel cart so that the dray was available for the boys to deliver freight or express. The train came in twice a day and was sometimes late because of the storms and he would wait or make another trip. When Mr. Masson retired Dad was appointed Bailiff-Sheriff. This was a difficult task for him as he had to serve papers to people he had known for many years.

Dad ploughed gardens for the residents of Irma as well as his own. He used a walking plough drawn by horses. He planted a large garden. I think he had a green thumb, as there wasn't anything that would not grow for him.

We had cows and goats. Mother made cheese and butter for home use. She had special customers and sold butter for thirty and forty-five cents a pound. Cream was sold to Burns Creamery in Irma for thirty-two and forty-one cents a pound, eggs were seven and ten cents a dozen.

The extra butter and eggs were traded for groceries, shoes and drygoods. In the summer eggs were plentiful and she put them in water glass in a crock for winter. The hens didn't lay as much in the winter or stopped entirely. We were short of eggs one summer and thought the hens had stopped laying earlier than usual. We discovered that Norma and Jean were using them to make mud pies as they baked harder. Mother was a seamstress and could



Lionel and Laura Guiltner.

make anything from simple sewing to suits and fancy dresses without a pattern. Being able to sew was important as there was very little money, and she made our clothes and hats and clothes for herself. She was a good cook, one of the best I am told. Mother and Dad had their home remedies like everyone else, goose grease and stick licorice for colds, bees wax for burns and asafetida to kill germs before you were sick. Mother canned saskatoons, some mixed with rhubarb, for fruit and made jams and jellies from chokecherries, rhubarb and saskatoons for winter. Wild strawberries, raspberries and saskatoons were fruit for summer. In the fall Dad went hunting for game birds. His hunting partners were Carl Finch and Mr. Ross McFarland Sr. and the boys when they were old enough. Mother saved the breast feathers from the geese and ducks and made pillows and feather ticks. In the fall Dad butchered a beef and pig. Mother canned the beef and the pork was put in a salt brine for winter. The chickens were butchered and canned too. The pork fat was saved and she made soap for the laundry. Dad had the cowhide tanned at a tannery in Edmonton and used this for mending the harness.

Mother and Dad worked hard as did the other settlers. In 1925 a son, Clifford passed away of pneumonia and in

1935 Mother went into the hospital and was operated on for cancer. She passed away two months later leaving six children under the age of ten years of age and we missed her. Dad and the older ones kept the family together. Each one took his turn cooking and looking after the little ones. We learned how to cook, sew and mend at an early age. We all helped with the berry picking, canning, gardening and plucking and cleaning birds in hunting season. The boys belonged to Trail Rangers, we all went to Sunday School and were in the church choir. There were banquets and concerts in the church and picnics in June at the Buffalo Park, where the Army Camp is now. We all went to school in Irma. We walked the quarter of a mile in summer and winter unless it was too cold, then Dad would take us on the dray. The winters were much colder then, temperatures went down between thirty-five and sixty-five below zero with the wind factor. The students in the country weren't able to come to school if the weather was too severe. Their transportation was horse and sleigh, horseback or walk and sometimes the roads were impassable and faces, toes and fingers frostbitten. In May the Musical Festival was held in Wainwright each year. Marjorie won a diploma for elocution and singing. A Track and Field Meet was held in either Wainwright, Viking, Chauvin or Irma which was held in October for two years and then changed to June because of the weather. We won several medals for the Irma school. There was a games meet held each year - baseball, softball and basketball for junior, intermediate and senior teams. We participated in the games. Four of us from the public school basketball team played with the high school team. When King George VI and Queen Elizabeth I came to Canada in 1939 they stopped in Wainwright and the Irma basketball team played for them.

Dad and the boys were sports minded and played baseball. Dad played for the Irma team in 1918. He recalled they had to play in Tofield, going and returning by train. Bob, Harvey and Jimmie played hockey for the Irma Hockey teams. Bob played for Irma when Irma played Fort Saskatchewan in Edmonton in 1939 with Irma winning the cup. Harvey was a boxer and boxed several times in 1939 and 1940. When war was declared there was a shortage of players for all sports and everything came to a stop. The boys were joining the forces and going away to fight for their country.

Bob and Harvey joined the forces. Bob wasn't accepted because of burns on his legs but Harvey was. Harvey went overseas in the fall of 1941. We felt like we had lost him forever but he arrived home safe and sound and we were luckier than some who lost loved ones over there. Stan was also in the forces but received a medical discharge.

Dad was married in 1946 to Bessie (Howat) Pierce. Bess was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and had two sons, Art and Stan from a previous marriage, both living in Irma. There were six children living at home and going to school, each leaving to make his own way. They had one child Richard. They planted the large garden for several years, freezing what they could use. There was always more than they needed and they gave the rest away. The garden is much smaller now but there is still



Guiltner family reunion held August 3, 1980.

enough for two families. Dad and Bess were janitors of the new school for twelve years and retired when he was seventy-five. Rick went to the new school in Irma. He was in the school band, sea cadets, played ball and hockey. He is coach of the Irma Aces Hockey team and they won the championship for 1982-83. Bess belonged to the Art and Craft Club started in 1964. She took a course in millinery with Mrs. Scott and they taught classes in Chauvin and Viking.

They had a new piece built on to the house, new cupboards and plumbing put in with the help of Stan Pierce and his friends, Rick, Marj., Dave and myself. They had carried water for so many years that Bess said she turned on the taps each time she went by, she couldn't believe that she had it so convenient.

Rick married Marjorie Hoff and they have two girls Robin Leigh and Carey-Ann. At the present they are living in a trailer on the homeplace.

We had a surprise birthday for Dad when he was seventy-two. Many thanks to Mr. Gunn for letting us use the school and helping us keep it a secret and to Bess for preparing the food. All but two of the children were home and four grandchildren were there. We gave Bess a bouquet of roses and Dad a chair. We had open house in the evening and a good time was had by all. On Dad's ninetieth birthday he had just come home from the hospital and some were there prior to his birthday and some were there for it. On August 3, 1980 we had a family reunion, everyone brought their own food. The yard was full of trailers, campers, motorhomes and tents and looked like a campsite. Eighty-two were there. It was Irma's sports weekend and we had a float in the parade. We had rented the Legion Hall, which was fortunate because it rained all weekend. We had pictures taken and after dinner we had open house. It was nice to see so many that we hadn't seen for a number of years. In

October 1980 Lucille, the oldest, passed away in Vancouver. There are thirteen children, fifty-seven grandchildren, fifty-three great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren living in Alberta, British Columbia, Kansas and Australia of his, hers and ours as Dad and Bess would say. Dad celebrated his ninety-fourth birthday in March and they are still living on the homeplace at the time of writing. They are both well and happy. They have Rick, Marj. and the girls close by and the girls visit every day and keep them busy.

Mr. Guiltner passed away January 27, 1985.



Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Guiltner at the celebration of Mr. Guiltner's ninety-fifth birthday.

RICHARD R. GUILTNER

by Rick Guiltner

Born to Lionel and Bessie Guiltner, August 21, 1948, I received my schooling in Irma and pursued a career in the Construction Industry.

I met my wife, Marj., in 1969 and we were married on August 31, 1974. We moved home to Irma in 1975 and have two daughters; Robin Leigh, (Nov. 10/76), and Carey-Ann, (June 24, 1978).

We are now residing on the family acreage, and I am a Pipefitter currently employed in Wainwright.

Marj. and I have been very active in the community. Marj. as an active member of the O.O.R.P.; Kinettes; Curling Club; and Local Advisory Committee. I have been a member of the Irma Aces Hockey Club for the past seven years, as both a player and now as a coach. I have played ball with the Irma Tigers for five years and belong to the Elks, Volunteer Fire Department, and am a past member of the Kinsmen Club.

CARL GULBRAA FAMILY

by Eunice Gulbraa

Carl was born in the Sampson house in Irma on October 14th, 1922. Genon (Theroux) Astley was born a few days later. Little did they expect to be "in-laws" someday.

After his public schooling Carl farmed with his dad. He was exempt from military duty because of his need on the farm. On October 20th, 1950 he married Eunice Satre. Their first home was the former Jim Hearn farm the N.E. 36-44-9-W4th.

On June 24th, 1953 Lorraine Carolynn was born. Carl commuted daily to his homeplace until June of 1954 when this land was sold to the Department of National Defense for Army manoeuvres. We lived with Hans Christenson from June to December when we moved to the Gulbraa farm. Carl's folks retired and moved into their home in Irma.

On February 26th, 1956 our son Harold Leigh arrived. That was another bad winter of wind and snow. Caterpillar tractors were used to open the Hardisty road for us who had need to get out.

Electricity came to our district in 1953 and in 1965 we put in water and sewer. The underground telephone line was dug in in 1966 and natural gas in 1976.



Lorraine, Carl, Eunice, and Harold Gulbraa.

From the original sod shack to our modern day farm homes with every convenience of a city home, we often wonder why we are still so busy. To have to go back to those early days, we would realize we are a very fortunate but ungrateful people.

As the children received their schooling they were also receiving another form of education by being members of the Irma 4-H Beef Club. With parental support and conscientious leaders, they were fortunate enough to be recipients of several awards.

Lorraine and Harold with their parents, were active in the function of Sharon Lutheran Church and were both matriculation graduates of Irma High School. They thought the bus rides were long and tiring but they couldn't be compared with walking or riding many miles to a cold school, where the inkwells didn't thaw out until noon.

Lorraine attended one year at Camrose Lutheran College and three years at the University of Alberta, graduating with a B.Ed. degree with a Home Ec. Major. Her first four years of teaching were at Olds, Alberta, and the last five years at Camrose Composite High School. She was married to Dennis Thirsk on August 6th, 1983 and lives on the farm east of Wetaskiwin.

Harold worked for Whitehorse Construction of Kinsella for two winters, one at Interprovincial Steel Co. in Edmonton, one winter for Air Canada and now with Benning and Porter of Wainwright. During the summer he farms with his parents. He married Gwyneth Astley on July 25th, 1981 and they live in their grandparents' house in Irma.



Dennis and Lorraine Thirsk, Eunice and Carl Gulbraa, Gwyneth and Harold Gulbraa.

Carl, like his dad, loves his cattle and has been cross-breeding with Simmentals. He wishes every year could bring cattle prices like 1979 when steer calves sold for one dollar and ten cents a pound.

Eunice is active in several organizations and coor-

minated courses for the Further Education Council for eight years.

At the time of writing the economy of our country is in great difficulty. Many farmers are struggling to keep on top with machinery, fertilizers and chemicals so high and our income not following. Hang in there, I'm sure we will make it!

THE J.B. GULBRAA STORY

In 1904, at the age of 19 years, Johannes Berge Gulbraa left Voss, Norway by boat for the U.S.A. Shortly after his arrival Anna Ekse followed him over and they were married. After three years working as a farm hand at Wallace, South Dakota, he felt he wanted to be more independent, so in 1907 he came to Canada to file on a homestead. Johannes came by rail to Wetaskiwin, the end of the rail at that time, and walked to Irma as he had heard there were good homesteads available. He filed on the NE 17-45-9 W4 because the hills and water on this land reminded him of his homeland. Johannes then returned to the States where his son Berge was born that same year. In 1909, after working two more years in the States, Johannes came back to Canada bringing his wife Anna and his two year old son, Berge.



Mr. and Mrs. Johannes B. Gulbraa with Sophia and Berge about 1912.

Johannes and Anna worked hard breaking the land and building a home which they lived in until 1917. They then moved into the new three story house that still stands on the original location. Six children were born to Johannes and Anna. Berge in the States, Knute, Sophie, Magnus, and twin boys in Canada. The twin boys were born in 1918, but shortly after their birth, they along with their mother died. She had only lived in her new home for six months.

Johannes and Anna, along with others in the Community worked hard to get Sharon Lutheran Congregation organized. Johannes was president of Sharon Congregation through the following years: 1910-1918; 1925-1936; 1937-1948. He had the position of Honorary President since that time. The first Sunday School in the congregation was organized in 1917 with Mr. Gulbraa as President. Johannes was also instrumental in getting a ladies' church organization formed, of which Anna was the first President. Johannes



John Gulbraa with his children Berge, Knute, Sophie, and Magnus.

and Anna were both very dedicated to their country church.

Besides his first love, church work, Mr. Gulbraa was very active in other community activities. As a member of the U.G.G., Wheat Pool, and Dairy Pool; one of the first directors of the Co-op Store, and later as one of the Directors of C.C.I.L., and the present Co-op Store, he was one who helped further progress for farmers. Along with his activities in the farming community he was also one of the first trustees for the Glenholm School District.

Johannes' children grew up on the homestead. Sophia left for Manitoba where she met and married Fred Beulow. They had three children, David, Mary, and Donald. Sophia lived in Manitou, Manitoba until her death in 1976.



Berge, Knute, Sophie, and Johannes Gulbraa, 1952.

Magnus unfortunately died in 1938 at the age of twenty-one years after a lengthy illness.

Berge and Knute took over the farm. Johannes lived with Berge on the farm until his death in 1960.

Berge married Oliva Likness in 1937 and to this union four children were born. Sigmund, Edythe, JoAnne and Arne.

Knute married Muriel Hill in 1951. They had three sons, Allan, Brian and Kent.

Berge and Knute continued farming until their deaths in 1970 and 1973 respectively. The grandsons of J.B. Gulbraa now farm the land, Arne being on the homestead.



Mr. and Mrs. Berge Gulbraa, Sigmund, Edythe, JoAnne and Arne.

JOE GULBRAA FAMILY

by Eunice (Satre) Gulbraa

Joe Gulbraa, born September 1st, 1888, son of Herlaug and Ingeborg Gulbraa, left his home in Vos, Norway at the young age of seventeen years, to explore the possibilities in a new land.

In 1906, after three weeks at sea, he arrived in New York, then on to Toronto, South Dakota, where he went to his uncle. Later he worked for his half-brother where he helped farm with horses. He had a run-a-way, having his leg badly broken, which left him with permanent damage. One leg was left shorter so from then on he always had a limp.

Because his cousin Johannes B. Gulbraa and family had already settled here in the Irma district, Joe, with the whole sum of about sixty dollars, decided to come to Canada. In 1909 he took as his homestead the S.W. 16-45-9-W4th and proceeded to build himself a sod house. Mrs. Gulbraa was so lonesome she encouraged Joe to build on the north slope of the present Carl Gulbraa farm sight, so she could see smoke coming out of the chimney. He also made a dug-out side hill barn where the present chicken house is located. With oxen he broke his first land just east of his farmstead and sowed oats. His crop was good and he fed it to his oxen. He lived in the sod house for three years while building a small frame house with a lean-to kitchen of logs.

Bernthine Marie Knudson was born in Bodo, Norway on September 28th, 1888. Her mother died when she was eleven years old so was raised by her maternal grandmother. She worked for a Jewish family before leaving for Canada in 1913. She, with her father and sister, took a boat from Trondheim to England, only to find their boat to Canada had left, so they had to wait ten days in Liverpool for the next boat to leave.

In Halifax her trunk had been put on the wrong train

and sent to Philadelphia, so when she arrived in Edmonton, the only clothes she had were the heavy clothes she was wearing. It was now April 14th. A kind Norwegian Real Estate agent found her a job in Edmonton for a month while waiting for her trunk. She then came to Irma to work for Mr. and Mrs. Love Sr. (Mrs. Fred Hill's parents). She later met the Gulbraas' south of town and in 1917 became Mrs. Joe Gulbraa.

Two sons were born to this union, Harold and Carl. Times were hard and winters long and cold. The winter of 1919-20 was the winter of the snow. It started in October and didn't start melting until April 14th, the day before Harold was born. When Joe was taking Tina (Bernthine) to the doctor just before Harold's birth, the sleigh tipped and they both fell out.

Joe was a true rancher and loved his cattle. For years he raised Black Angus but later switched to Herefords. He hauled feed from near the present Hutterite Colony



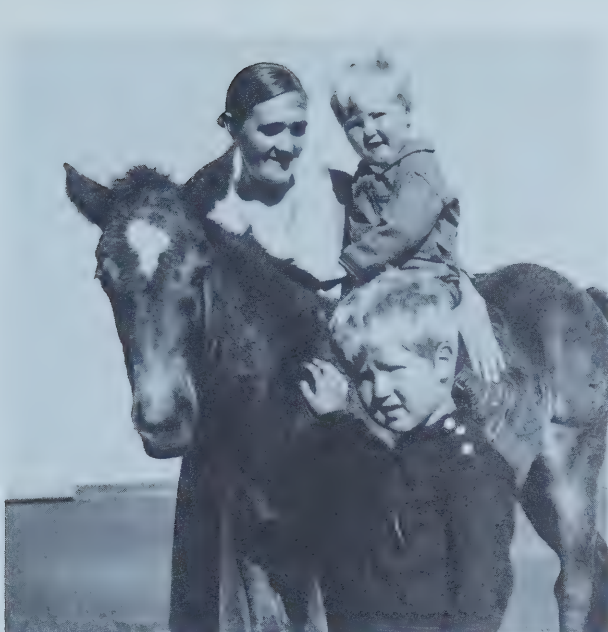
Joe Gulbraa with oxen in front of home in early 1920's.

going north one day, spending the night with John S. Gulbraa, and coming home the next day. Tina would look after the chores while he was gone. In later years he kept a hired man. George Pedel worked for Joe when Carl was small. George had quite a time to understand Carl because all he could speak was Norwegian.

Joe had two big barns built to house his animals, a cow barn in 1915 and horse barn in 1918. The new living house was finished in 1928, a real treat for Tina after having crowded their family of four plus the hired man, into that tiny one bedroom house.

The farming operation was handled with horses until 1942 when a Model S. Case tractor was purchased. This little gutless 25-30 horsepower unit was expected to solve all problems but proved otherwise. It certainly couldn't be compared to the four-wheeled drive units of today.

Joe had been instrumental in getting Glenholm school started as well as donating the land to build it on. He was on the School Board for many years. He was also a Charter Member of Sharon Lutheran Church. Teachers boarded at the Gulbraa home for years. At one time Tina was washing clothes on the board for her family of four plus the teacher and hired man. That was after hauling water and heating it on her wood stove.



Tina with Carl and Harold.

Harold and Carl took their public schooling at Glenholm and Harold went on to Irma High and later to Camrose Lutheran College and University of Alberta. In May, 1941 he enlisted in the Air Force. Before going overseas he was engaged to Elva Christenson from Moncton, New Brunswick. On June 26th, 1943 word was received that Harold's life had been lost in Algiers, Africa, a day never to be forgotten by his family.

Carl continued to farm with his parents. In 1954 they moved to their home in Irma beside McFarland's on 51st Avenue. Joe later sold part of his lot to Milton Fahner and Ervin Prosser, who each built a new home. Carl and Eunice took over the farm.

It was hard to get adjusted to town life and Joe spent many years helping on the farm. The last years were spent more entertaining his grandchildren Lorraine and Harold. They would go checking cattle and more than once they got the car hung up on a rock and had to walk home. He was so proud of his grandchildren.

After a fall he passed away January 17th, 1967 at the age of seventy-eight years. Tina continued to live alone until she was ninety-two when she moved into Battle River Lodge in February, 1981. Throughout her life she was noted for her beautiful handwork, especially "Hardanger". At that time she was the only person doing it but since then her granddaughter Lorraine and granddaughter-in-law Gwyneth are both following Grandma's tradition, as are many other ladies in the area.

Tina passed away April 8th, 1983 at the age of ninety-four years and is sadly missed by her family.

KNUTE GULBRAA FAMILY

by Muriel Thurston

Knute Gulbraa, the second son of Johannes and Anna Gulbraa, was born on September 14th, 1913, at the home

of his parents, where Arne Gulbraa now lives. As a boy he attended Glenholm School, until taking up farming with his father and brothers, Berge and Magnus.

On December 1st, 1951 he married Muriel Ralphina Hill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hill. Together they established their farm on the N.W. 8-45-9-W4th. They had three sons, Allan Magnus, Brian Knute and John Kent.

Muriel took her schooling at Irma and Strawberry Plains. Later she trained as a nurse at the Misericordia School of Nursing. She graduated and received her R.N. in 1951. Muriel nursed a little at Mannville, Hardisty and Wainwright. Muriel returned to full time nursing at the Wainwright General Hospital in 1964.

The family was active in Sharon Lutheran Church and Knute drove many boys to hockey and ball games. He rarely missed a game that the boys played.

Knute died May 13th, 1973, and his family continued to live on the farm, with Muriel nursing at the Wainwright Hospital.

On April 2nd, 1976, Muriel married Ivor Thurston and moved north to Irma to the Thurston farm. Ivor died July 26th, 1979. Allan and Brian continue to live with their mother and farm. Kent married Maureen (Pinkie) Parsons, and they live in the house Kent grew up in.



Muriel and Knute Gulbraa, Allan, Kent and Brian.

BILL AND NORMAN GUNN

by Ernie Rae

The Gunn brothers came from Kingston, Ontario. Both were Civil Engineers.

Bill Gunn was captain of the Kingston hockey team, who won a trophy (the whole series less one game). The Governor General's wife presented the trophy to Bill.

After they came West they surveyed in the McKenzie River area. They also knew about and had seen the tar sands in the Fort McMurray area, (In those days the Indians called it crazy mud).

Mr. Gunn, senior, besides his other interests owned a horse ranch and seven hundred horses in the Irricana, Alberta, area. Having other obligations he decided to

have his sons operate the ranch. They had horses broken for riding. They took a carload to Montreal, but didn't sell any. Folks there weren't too impressed by the western horses.

As the boys had a very limited knowledge of ranching the venture didn't pay. They sold the ranch and the horses for very little.

On coming out of the north they discovered The First World War had broken out. Both enlisted and served in France. Both were wounded and eventually got back to Alberta. In 1918 the Gunn brothers bought the Stuart Capelle homestead through the Soldier Settlement Board.

Bill chose his wife from the Markerville, Alberta, area. Mrs. Gunn came to the Irma district in 1919. She died of the flu, leaving a thirteen month old son Alex. Mrs. Ed McDowell befriended the family at this time, caring for the infant for about six months. Mr. Gunn's two cousins came from Kingston and took the little lad to their home. They raised and educated him. During World War Two the boy enlisted with the R.C.A.F. He was wounded and died in England.

After Mrs. Gunn passed away brother Norman stayed with Bill. These two brothers treated everything, especially their livestock and fowl extremely well, even if they neglected themselves. Their well was in the coulee, which meant hauling water with stoneboat and barrel.

Some cattle in the area became a nuisance to a farmer so they were taken to a pound several miles away. It so happened some of Gunns' cattle were with them. Mr. Gunn paid the pound fees by cheque - on the lower part of the cheque he wrote - paid under protest. The bank didn't cash the cheque. There are many recollections of the Gunns' farming. They could really build a straight fence.

They had superb stock, swine, cattle, fowl shown at fairs. They always overfed their animals. If they had a good crop they would have as much as four hundred bushels ground at one time and fed liberally.

One day their neighbor Ernie Rae arrived. They were in deep trouble. A cow had managed to get in through the porch of the house but couldn't get back out. Their one thought was to remove a wall of the house. Ernie with some manipulation helped them get the cow outdoors.

Being educated men they didn't realize you should dress with smocks, etc. instead of long overcoats when you were feeding or tending cattle. Having been surveyors they would roll up in their blankets and sleep out of doors against a building until it became very cold.

The one brother had a habit of putting straw in a blanket, gathering the four corners and hauling it in for the animals. One frisky animal came up behind him in haste and bunted him into the straw. After two unsuccessful attempts with the straw he questioned Ernie, "Did you ever see such a playful animal?" They had a turkey gobbler which weighed sixty pounds. One day a cow (on the prod) became very difficult to fetch home. Ernie took his saddle horse and between him and Bill they got it home (having lassoed it). On arriving home the cow charged the strutting turkey, stomped it till nothing was left but feathers. After getting the cow in the barn Ernie had difficulty getting the rope off; then to try and get out of the building. In desperation he went through a hole in

the roof. Sometime later the beast was butchered.

The broken land was about twenty acres. They were known to have used a garden cultivator pulled by one horse for cultivating. They produced a good garden and even tried growing tobacco. One person said he had tried all kinds of moonshine, but the effects of that strong tobacco was worse.

One harvesttime they thought the threshers wouldn't like their coulee water so they brought out ginger ale, one dozen pies, cakes and sandwiches made by Bob Stone, the baker.

When their health failed, they finally consented to go to Edmonton. Bill died at 85 years. They are both buried in the Irma Cemetery.

DONALD GUNN'S STORY

At the age of six weeks, so I am told, my family brought me from Norland, Ontario to the Wainwright area, where the family farmed for many years. After completing Grade X in Trafalgar school, four miles east of Wainwright, one year's attendance at the Wainwright High School led to the completion of Grade XI, the highest grade offered in that school at that time. Going to Edmonton to take Grade XII was financially not possible, so for the next seven years I stayed at home on the farm. By the end of that time, the country was deep in recession and farming was strictly a non-profit occupation. The Wainwright High School had expanded to include Grade XII, so I returned to school for a year, and went on to the Camrose Normal School, graduating in May, 1934.

Because of an over-supply of teachers, I did not get a position for the opening of school in September, 1934, so went harvesting until that fall's work was finished. In November, I was offered substitute work in Grade VII and Grade VIII in Wainwright, and continued there until Christmas. During that time, I was successful in being appointed to teach at Orbindale, and began my work there on January 3, 1935. Orbindale, with good students and friendly people was a good district in which to teach, and I remained there for five and one half years. For the first year at Orbindale, the salary was \$650.00. Gradually, over a period of about three years it was increased to \$840.00 per annum, which was the statutory minimum at that time. Then the province consolidated the rural school districts into the larger Division. The Divisional Board adopted a salary schedule with a basic salary of \$750.00 per annum, and six yearly increments of \$25.00 each, but all teachers had to start with the basic salary of \$750.00, and in six years could advance to \$900.00.

In the summer of 1940, I was appointed to the one-room Ribstone High School to teach Grades IX, X and XI. By that time the salary schedule had improved, to give me a salary of \$900.00 per year. World War II had begun in 1939, and the teacher surplus quickly became a teacher shortage as young people joined the services, or found work in war industries. Teachers' salaries increased from then on.

The Ribstone High School, as all schools of that day, had little in the way of equipment other than the



Muriel E. Gunn, L. Maureen Gunn, Sharon (Gunn) Neuman, Ronald W. Neuman, Edith P. Gunn, Donald H. Gunn.

authorized textbooks, but the students were interested and hard working, and the community was very supportive. Many of the graduates from the school proceeded to further education. Some achieved degrees of Master and Doctor in different fields of study.

After three years at Ribstone, I transferred to the Irma High School to work with Mr. I.S. Reeds, beginning in September 1943. My intention was to stay in Irma for a year or perhaps two. The Irma High School had an already-established standard of high academic achievement. Again, I found good students and a supportive community. The intended one or two years extended to a total of twenty-nine, the last nineteen as principal. Retirement came in June, 1972, after thirty-seven and one-half years of teaching.

At Ribstone, Edith Taylor of Fort Saskatchewan taught the junior room -- Grades I to VIII. We were married in August of 1945.

Edith P. Taylor was born at Kerrobert, Saskatchewan where she with her brother attended elementary school for two years. The family then moved to Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta where she graduated from High School in the mid-thirties. The contrast between the landscape of Kerrobert and that of Alberta was striking, and made for the development of a life-long respect for trees and water!

After working in a store for three summers to earn the money, she attended Edmonton Normal School in 1937-1938. Over a hundred letters of application were written, with thirteen favorable replies, one of the first of which was from Grangedale S.D., north of Heath. There followed two years at Giles school north of Edgerton, three at New Ribstone, and one at Edgerton village. The salary at Grangedale was \$840.00, but dropped to \$750.00 the next year, because of the Divisional policy previously mentioned.

The experience of living in the country was very enriching, with the teacher often learning from students, especially in the areas of animal husbandry and nature study in field and slough. Warm friendships developed with pupils and parents, many of which continue to this day.

Having married me in 1945, she came to Irma where she and I raised three daughters: Sharon Neuman who teaches at Ross Sheppard High School in Edmonton, and has two sons and one daughter; Maureen Bradbury who applies her degree in Library Sciences to administer Corporate Affairs for Texaco Oil Company in Calgary; Muriel Bromby who worked for several years in the Grande Prairie Child Development Centre for the Multiple Handicapped before her daughter was born this year. (1983)

Life in Irma, while working and since retirement, is pleasant and comfortable, with enough community work to keep one in good health, both mentally and physically.

ARCHIE AND GAIL GUSTAFSON

by Mable Sarasin

Daddy was born in Harlem County, Nebraska, U.S.A. on May 20th, 1885. There were six living children - Aben, Archie (registered Arthur), Eunice, Elsie, Edward and Esther. Their father passed away in about 1905. The mother raised her family alone on the farm. Grandma Gustafson died as a result of a car accident going home from church one Sunday late in the fall of 1928. The original name was Hoard but Grandma Gustafson was a very refined and proud woman and had this name changed to Gustafson. Royalty's name in Sweden was Gustav.

The Scandinavian people are a very adventurous race. Daddy and Uncle Edward set out for Canada and arrived at Buck Lake area about 1919. Uncle Edward stayed about one year, then returned to Nebraska to make his home there.

A few years later Daddy met and married Gail Knudson on May 30th, 1922 in Edmonton. I know of one wedding present, an earthen mixing bowl from Stella Nettler, a co-worker of Mother's at the Viking Hotel where both worked; Mother as waitress and Stella as chambermaid. The folks lived on the farm on N.E. 17-46-12-W4th. The Albert Squair family live on and own that land now.

Mother's parents were adventurous Scandinavian people too. Hannah Knudson was born Johannah Carlson in Linkoping, Sweden on May 6th, 1876. She immigrated to Newman Grove, Nebraska on December 1st, 1898 at the age of twenty-two years. She had worked in a dairy since she was a child. It took six weeks to cross the Atlantic by boat at that time. Grandma came to be with her only sister, Mrs. Hulda Knudson (husband was Knute Knudson). Albert, Knute's younger brother was appointed to meet the young lady at the train. Ten days later on December 10th, 1898 the happy young couple were married. There was one stipulation though; they had to save enough money to send for Grandpa Carlson from Linkoping, Sweden. This materialized a few years later, and Grandpa Carlson lived with them until his passing when the children were small.

About the turn of the century the bride and groom (Albert and Hannah) and infant son Hans arrived in Wetaskiwin vicinity where little Hans died from croup and was buried in a cemetery near Wetaskiwin. The undaunted pioneers moved to a farm southwest of Viking



Gail and Archie Gustafson's wedding, May 23rd, 1922.

and took up mixed farming.

They raised a family of four girls and one boy - Annie, Gail, Amy, Carrie and James. Grandpa Knudson passed away in Edmonton on June 29th, 1951. Grandma Knudson passed away January 5th, 1961 in Viking hospital. Both are buried in Jarrow cemetery.

It was in the spring of 1926 that Daddy and Mother and family of two girls, Mabel and Hannah moved to their newly purchased farm. It was tax sale property and they bought it for four hundred dollars. The four room bungalow and four stall barn with a large hay loft and hip roof were quite newly constructed. The folks soon added a full length lean-to on the north side of the barn. There was a bored well between the house and the barn. The water was hard as nails but good for drinking. Yes, and there was an "air-conditioned John" in the bushes southeast of the house. The ash pile was nearby. Eaton's catalogue provided the tissue for the "John". It was located in an orange box (wooden) nailed in the corner. Every summer robins came and built a nest in the tissue holder. They usually got tame enough to stay on the nest during our daily visits.

Springtime was a busy time. We had a hand operated fanning mill to screen the weed seeds from the seed grain. Farming was with four horses. I believe Daddy's plow had a metal seat to sit on. He walked behind the harrows all day though. The seed drill had a step at the back to stand on. The garden had to be worked with horsepower.

Mother hand raked the whole patch before she seeded it. Mother carefully tended the rhubarb in anticipation of the first juicy fresh fruit pie of the year. The staple fruit for spring work desserts was rhubarb.

There were cows to be milked night and morning, calves to be fed, pigs to carry feed and water to, and chickens to be cared for. Springtime was time to set clucking hens with about a dozen choice handpicked big eggs. The number of chicks was determined by the number of clucky hens and availability of feed. Hard-boiled eggs and rolled oats was the chick starter until chicks were able to eat grain. Crushed eggshells provided calcium and grit. In the winter a twenty-five cent bag of oystershells was purchased and fed to the chickens to help provide grit. These were carefully measured out. Early hatched chicks were summer fryers. Hawks, as well as magpies and crows preyed on baby chicks. Coyotes enjoyed chicks at any age. All these predators were very brave and would come into the yard for tasty morsels.

In the spring Daddy would take a ten pound syrup pail and would put some oats treated with strychnine way down in the gopher holes in the fields and nearby pastureland. He had to be careful though so livestock couldn't reach the grain and be found poisoned too.

Usually in May the older children along with Mother and often Aunt Carrie would go out on the range and climb trees in pursuit of crow and magpie eggs, or their feet. The municipality paid a bounty of one cent each for the eggs or two cents for a pair of feet. Gopher tails were one cent each.



Mabel Gustafson, Edward Gustafson, on crutches, Hannah and George. Dog called Peggy.

Mother was a very versatile woman. Everything in the home was either homegrown or homemade. The cream cheques provided the week's groceries, car gas, repairs, household necessities and a gallon of coal oil for the lamp. The single coal oil lamp provided light for the entire house. In the early 1930's an eight gallon can of cream brought about three dollars and a five gallon can brought about two dollars, depending on the test for butterfat and if it was sweet. The folks took pride in good test and sweet cream, referred to as "Special". Number one was sour.

Shopping was done through Eaton's catalogue.

Remnant bundles for one dollar and ninety-eight cents contained four pieces of print material, a total of twelve yards of material. Mother made dresses with bloomers to match for dress wear. Flour sacks from one hundred pound bags made everyday slips and bloomers. Shirts for boys and Daddy were made from fairly suitable remnant material. Excitement was high when an Eaton parcel arrived. For the sum of ninety-eight cents, a collection of assorted garden seeds were bought too.

In the summer there were many events. Berry picking, mostly saskatoons was one. Sometimes a couple of neighbors would go together and take a picnic lunch. I believe Mother aimed for one hundred quarts of saskatoons for winter fruit and sometimes a bit of jam.

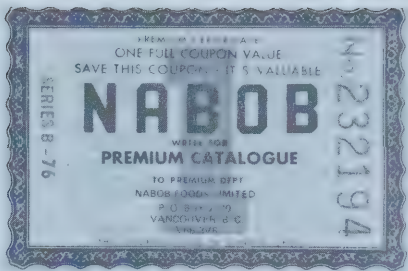
We usually tried once a year to gather close neighbors and go to the lake south of Jarrow and have a potluck dinner. Ourselves, Chas Olsen family, Claude, Carrie and Virgil made a nice few. Nearby bachelors were included too. Fenton Nash and Harry Carter were the usual. The men went off swimming in the nude. The women took care of the children, the eats and visited. That was one day there were usually both pie and cake for dessert.

During the summertime relatives would try to come at least once for a visit, and the children had a great time playing. The toys were oftentimes a willow stripped of its leaves and branches except at the top. This was straddled and was a horse for the day. The riders' legs were well exercised and ready for bed when night came. An old broomstick used in the same fashion was highly prized. As a rule the oldest or strongest child claimed it. The playhouse, as children got older, was extremely unique to that era. Leaves and debris were cleaned from the ground in a partially open area in the bush near the house. Walls were a string of hollow grass made in necklace fashion. The doorway had a straight stick placed across the entrance. The dishes were salvaged from the ash pile if there were a few broken pieces to be found. A lot of imagination was used, and many happy hours were spent playing house.

Wash day meant carrying water from the pump and heating it in a boiler on the wood stove, followed by scrubbing the clothes on a glass washboard with Fels Naptha bar soap. Soap curdled in the hard water, so often mother hauled soft water from a nearby slough by horse and stoneboat. Snow was melted for soft water in the winter months. Clothes were hung on a clothesline to dry in both summer and winter.

Eggs were used for meat, desserts and cooking as was milk. In about 1932 the folks told us children we could have the egg money if we could sell the eggs. No sale at three cents a dozen. The local storekeeper, Bill Boyd, bought and sold eggs. There was no refrigeration to keep milk, eggs or butter cool. The townspeople living in Jarrow depended on Louis Treichel family for daily milk supply. It was ten cents a quart or twelve quarts for one dollar.

In about 1934 a market weight hog brought eight dollars and sixty-five cents. That was mine for passing my grade and coming first in my class of four students. The four were Margaret Williams (her father was the station agent), Elsie Belton, George McKenzie and



myself. Miss Rita Bothwell was teacher at the Jarrow school at the time.

Nabob and Blue Ribbon coupons were carefully saved from coffee, tea, cocoa, baking powder and soda. These were exchanged for aluminum cake or pie tins. I understand Nabob are discontinued.

Sugar, flour, rolled oats and salt bags were cloth. Sugar and rolled oats bags were used to sew clothing for children and tea towels. The flour bags also made sheets for the beds. Salt bags were extravagant dishcloths. The unravelled string was rolled in a ball and saved. I have a facecloth knit from this string.

The hay supply for winter was prairie wool as it was called, and slough hay. Daddy would take the team and mower, cut on the range and cut and rake as much as he could find. Mother often helped to load and bring home the hay where it was stacked by the buildings. The prairie wool (choice hay) was put in the hay loft first.

Fall with harvesting and threshing took much preparation for winter and was a very busy time. A pig would be butchered beforehand and put in a salt brine and stored in a crock for fresh meat. In cooler weather Habacure salt was rubbed in the meat and then generously sprinkled with coarse salt and stored in the oat bin for fresh meat. There were flies, birds, and rodents to deal with. Their diets included these delicacies too. When a beef was butchered it was canned for summer months and hung frozen in a granary for winter months.

The house was always banked with manure. One fall, about 1930 or 1931 winter arrived too early and the potatoes froze in the cellar. We ate them. The cows went dry. That was a tough winter. We had to charge groceries at Boyd's Store in Jarrow. From January to the end of April we purchased ten dollars' worth of groceries. The folks arranged for Mr. Boyd to come and get Bubbles, a choice milk cow heavy in calf for payment of groceries.

Before school started dresses and school clothes had to be sewn. December soon rolled around and the teacher was busy practicing the children for the Christmas concert. Costumes were made, mostly from crepe paper

ARTHUR CLAYTON GWINN



Jarrow, 1931 - Eddie, Hannah and Mabel Gustafson.

if required and concert night was a big event in the community. The school board provided enough oranges and candy for each child to receive a small bag of "goodies" from Santa. Santa distributed the gift exchange and usually embarrassed the teacher by sneaking a kiss. The laughter rocked the hall. Each child went home ecstatic with delight with a bag of candy and "ONE" gift.

Santa visited at Christmas usually bringing one toy and a piece or two of clothing, maybe a pair of homemade mittens. These were carefully laid by our clothes for us to find Christmas morning. No Christmas tree or decorations, but with much love from Mr. and Mrs. Santa. We were fortunate to have Christmas dinner at our house, New Years' at the Charlie Olsen home, and dinner on the Sunday between at the Lindbeck home. Again the neighboring bachelors were included.

There was usually a little dish of candy and nuts to crack. Occasionally a few apples or Christmas oranges were passed around. One each would be the limit. Memories lingered from year to year. The traditional turkey was probably a roast of beef or pork.

Mother tried to have mince pie, steam pudding with brown sugar sauce and Christmas cake. All sat down to the table, some on cream cans or apple boxes. The children often stood up at the table and ate their meal.

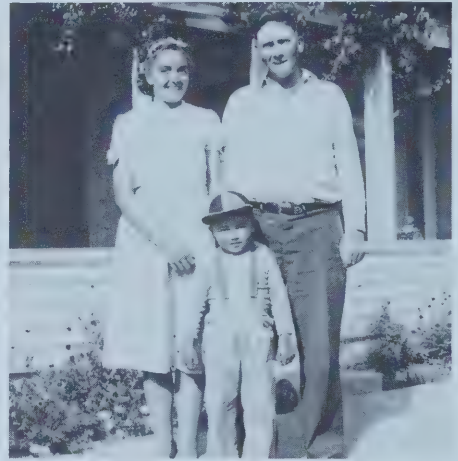
Two boys completed the family of four children, namely Edward and George.

Those were hard times but good times and pleasant memories still linger with a nostalgic flair.



Irma, Melda, Heather, Lottie, Linda, Sandra, and Bill Guy. (No History)

Art was born at Three Hills, Alberta on July 10th, 1911, the youngest of a family of twelve children. In 1916 he moved with his parents, brother Lewis and sisters Ada and Gertrude to the Notendale district northeast of Rosyth. He started school there in the little country schoolhouse, and when they moved to Hardisty he attended the Hardisty Public School. In 1926 they moved to Irma where he continued his schooling for another year. His teacher was Mrs. McDowell and the principal was Mr. I.S. Reeds. When he finished school, he helped his dad on the farm for awhile and then went to work on the railway on the B. and B. gang at Hardisty, Wilkie, Kerrobert, and Cutknife, Saskatchewan. He also worked



Art and Edith Gwinn and son Wayne, 1948.

at Dutchess in southern Alberta and for several farmers around Irma including Ted Berreth, Bert Armitage, Kasten Brothers, J.H. Archibald, Cap. Larson, Hasse, D.L. Robertson and Charlie Olsen. He went homesteading near Lindbergh but gave it up and rented his Dad's farm west of Irma where he is still living. In 1939 he married Edith Routledge of Lougheed.

Edith was born on December 25, 1914. She went to the little country school of "Valley", north of Lougheed and also one year at Melbrae. In 1937 she graduated from the Vermilion School of Agriculture and then helped to look after Mrs. Ernie Simmons of Irma who was bedridden. She also helped with housework and cooking for families at Vermilion, Elk Point, Dewberry, the old Riverside Hotel in Heinsberg, a Jewish family in Edmonton and for Mrs. Robert Kasten of Irma before getting married. Edith worked in Irma for a number of years as well as at home, first helping at the "Pendleton's Coffee Shop" for four years, the Gratton View Hotel for three years, the Co-op store for eleven years and at the Irma Restaurant for Bud and Kitty McNeill for about two and a half years.

Art and Edith have one son, Wayne, who is also farming west of Irma and a daughter Mrs. Floyd Hinecker (Esther) of Edmonton. Art's greatest pleasure in his spare time is hunting and fishing.

Wayne took all his schooling in Irma and played hockey for a number of years. In 1971 he married Colleen Cropley of Minburn. They have two sons, Glen, born Sept. 11th, 1973, and Lee, who was born April 4th, 1975.



Mr. and Mrs. Gwinn just after they left Irma for Chilliwack, B.C.

LEWIS JAMES GWINN

Lewis Gwinn was born on October 28th, 1867 in Lewisburg, Iowa. On July 16th, 1889, he married Coretta Coldwell, a girl he went to school with. As his parents were farmers, he continued farming in Iowa for a few years, then moved to Kansas. The dust storms and hurricanes were so terrible there that they moved to a farm near Walla-Walla, Washington. In 1906 they moved to Olds, Alberta and in 1909 homesteaded near Three Hills. In 1918 they moved to the Notendale district, northeast of Rosyth. While living there they rented land in the Gilt Edge district, north of Wainwright where they grew feed and put up hay for their cattle. They then moved to Hardisty and in 1926 they bought a farm west of Irma - the west 1/2 of 6-46-9, W4, formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. George Laboucane. They farmed and raised cattle there until 1940 and then rented the farm to their youngest son Arthur and moved to Chilliwack, B.C. and then to Victoria where Mrs. Gwinn passed away in 1943 at the age of 71 years. There were twelve children in the family, the first six were born in Iowa and Kansas, three in Washington, one at Olds, Alberta and two at Three Hills. Mr. Gwinn continued living in Victoria after his wife died but travelled a lot back and forth to the States to visit his family and friends and to the farm at Irma.

Both were musical, he played the violin and his wife played the organ. They played for many dances around Olds and Three Hills, sometimes going a number of miles with the team and sleigh. Many good times were had at their home, at Irma when friends and neighbors would gather there to play cards and listen to their music. He still played his violin when he was 96 years old. He was a life member of the I.O.O.F. and also the Orange Lodge at Irma.

Mrs. Gwinn belonged to the Irma W.I. and the Rebekah Lodge.

Mr. Gwinn passed away in the Mount St. Mary's

Hospital in Victoria, on Nov. 7th, 1966 at the age of 99 years. They are both buried in the Royal Oak Cemetery in Victoria.



Mr. Gwinn with his four youngest children. Lewis, Gertrude, Arthur (Youngest) and Ada.

WAYNE GWINN FAMILY

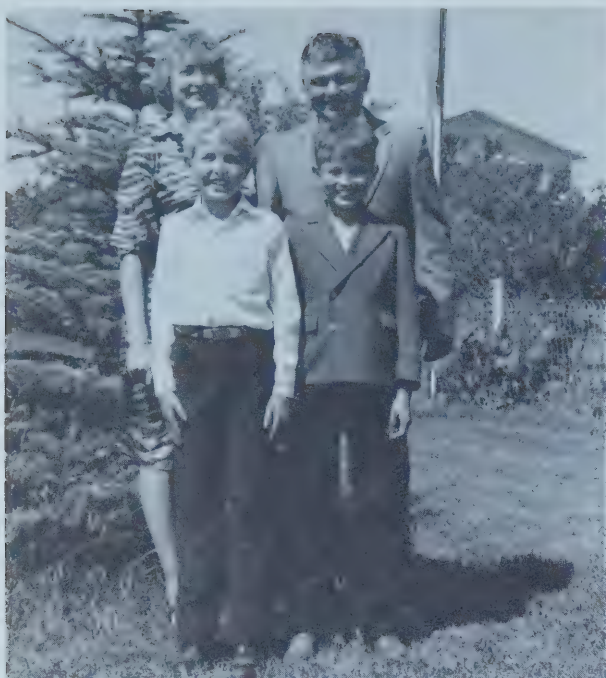
Wayne was born on August 17th, 1945, at Hardisty, Alberta. He started his schooling in Irma with Miss Touchette as his first teacher, finishing up to grade twelve. After leaving school his greatest love was to farm and raise a good herd of cattle, which has been accomplished.

In 1966 he bought a half section of C.P.R. land and later purchased the former Wilmer Rae home quarter, where the Jack Rae house still stands.

On April 24th, 1971, he married Colleen Cropley, to whom two sons were born, Glen Wayne on September 11th, 1973, and Lee Allan on April 4th, 1975, at Viking, Alberta.

Having moved the buildings from the Wilmer Rae place, we reside on the family farm. With the need to expand we acquired land formerly homesteaded by Nightengales, Bill Blades, Arthur Peterson, George and Peter Bergen.

Wayne was active in sports, especially baseball and hockey. He played in the Little League and Pony League baseball, coached by Albert Firkus and Bill Hubman. Hockey seemed to be more of a challenge, playing his position of left wing. He started with the Midgets, coached by Ron Lovig and Bill Paterson, continuing on to the Juveniles, coached by Rev. McGeaghay, and into senior hockey "The Aces". He retired after fifteen years of precious memories and a number of trophies, of which he is very proud. With our sons wanting to learn the game, he enjoys coaching in Irma Minor hockey.



Colleen and Wayne Gwinn with sons Glen and Lee.

Colleen likes being on the farm with the cattle and enjoys the occupation of hairdressing. In 1979 she opened her own shop "Country Cuts and Curls" which is patronized by many local Irmaites.



Colleen with her hairdressing business.

OSCAR HALLING

by Murle Larson

Oscar Halling emigrated from Norway as a young man and worked for Alf Larson for seven years. He was a good worker and was very good to the children. Arriving at the Larson home he could speak no English but mastered this fairly well as the children were always talking to him. When he left Canada he returned to Norway, where he was employed in a factory.

On one of Ole Halverson's trips back to Norway he visited Oscar, who was happy to be in his homeland. He was still unmarried at that time.

OLAV HALVORSEN

Olav Halvorsen (Ole) was born at Bo, Telemark, Norway on March 31st, 1901. He came to Canada in 1926 and worked for "Cap" Larson, and he and the Larson family became very good friends. Ole worked for several farmers in the district before moving to Strome, where he farmed for a couple of years. He then returned to Irma where he started farming for himself.

Ole was an excellent horseman and a very good neighbor. He farmed on many locations in the Irma area before buying a house in Irma. For a while he lived in town and commuted to work. In the 1940's Mrs. "Cap" Larson kept house for him.

Ole made several trips back to Norway to visit his mother and other relatives. He died of asphyxiation in his home in August, 1957.

Today Mr. and Mrs. Bill Crabb live in that house.



Ole Halvorsen, 1952.

HARDY HISTORY

by Ivan and Catherine Hardy

George W. Hardy was born at Montrose P.E.I. in May, 1880. His family moved to Howlan P.E.I. when the youngsters were all small. George spent his early working years in North Dakota, U.S.A., then in Winnipeg, Manitoba working in construction. He spent the winter of 1905-06 in Mannville, working at the livery barn. He drove people out into the country to locate their homestead land. He had filed on his homestead in 1905 and started to live there in 1906. This is the S.W. 1/4 of Section 36-47-9-W4. His house was a sod shack and was situated about one-quarter of a mile in, on the north side of the quarter.

About the year 1910-1911 he built a log shack, where the present building site is located. His brother Lew had arrived in the west around this time and they lived together. Eventually Lew acquired his own homestead - S.W. 1/4 of Section 12. This is now owned by Hugh Fleming. The original building site was east of the present buildings.

In the winter of 1914-15 George went back to Prince



Hardy-Patterson wedding July 10th, 1945. John Barss, Ivan Hardy, Catherine (Patterson) Hardy and Betty McLean.

Edward Island. Before he returned to the homestead in the spring of 1915 he had been married to Lena Currie, of Alberton, P.E.I. Two sons were born to this family, Charles Allen, known to all as Allen, in 1916 and Ivan Hunter, in 1918. The 'flu epidemic struck the family and in February of 1920 Lena died. Lena was lonesome for her family after she had moved west, and wrote telling them of the wonderful opportunities in the west. Soon the rest of her family, the Havelock Curries, moved out from P.E.I.

George Hardy saw the development of the Buffalo Coulee Municipality and the Albert School District. The area was known as Zoldovaro, not Albert, in the early days. He also did quite a bit of carpenter work in the early times on the farm. In 1937 he was married to Myrtle Fern (Daisy) Herrick. They continued to live on the farm until 1947 when they built a new house in Minburn, Alberta and moved there. Daisy Hardy passed away in May of 1957. George continued to live in Minburn until the fall of 1959 when he took up residence in the Senior Citizens' Lodge in Wainwright. He passed away in May of 1960, just past his 80th birthday.



Ivan Hardy Family at Christmas in 1983. Standing: Evelyn Mark, Allen Hardy, Bill Hardy, Barbara Fleming. Middle: Ivan and Catherine Hardy. Front: Leslie Hardy, Cindy Hardy. Missing: Kenneth, David and Dorothy Hardy.

Now about his family - Allen went to school in Winnipeg, Manitoba and then farmed with his dad and Ivan. In 1952 he built his own house on his land and lived there until 1976. As this time he sold his farm to Leonard Jones and he moved into Irma. In 1945 Ivan Hardy married Catherine Patterson and they lived on rented land until 1947. At this time they moved to George Hardy's farm and his dad and Daisy moved to Minburn.

Ivan continued to farm until 1972 when he sold the farm to Harvey Haun. The Hardy family then moved to Edmonton and then to Creston, B.C. in 1980. They have four sons and four daughters, all living in Alberta except Leslie, who is with his parents at Creston.

ALLEN HARDY

Charles Allen Hardy was the first son of George and Evelyn (Currie) Hardy, born on the family farm S.W. 36-47-9-W4th in February, 1916. He obtained his schooling at the Winnipeg School for the Deaf and afterwards farmed with his father and brother.

In 1953 he built a house on his own land N.E. 26-47-9-W4th and lived there until 1976 when he sold his land to Leonard Jones. He moved into Irma and lives there now.

IVAN HARDY FAMILY

Ivan Hunter Hardy, second son of the late George and Evelyn (Currie) Hardy, was born on the family farm S.W. 36-47-9-W4th on February 15th, 1918. This area was first known as Zoldovara, but was later changed to Albert District.

He received his schooling at the Albert School and the Vermilion School of Agriculture, graduating from there in the 1935-36 year. He farmed with his father and brother, Allen, after finishing school.

In 1945 he was united in marriage to Catherine Patterson, second daughter of the late Reuben and Cindy Patterson, also of the Irma district. They lived for two years on a farm rented from Mrs. Bert Clelland, before moving to his father's farm. At this time George Hardy and wife Daisy (Herrick) moved to Minburn.

Ivan and Catherine had five daughters and four sons. One girl, Mary, born January, 1955 died in an accident in June of 1957.

The eldest girl, Evelyn, married Jerry Mark, and they farm in the Irma district. They have three children, Gordon, Leonard and Teresa.

Barbara Hardy, married John Fleming, and they also live on a farm in the Irma area. They have four girls, Diane, Doris, Edna and Debra.

The oldest boy, Bill, married Lorraine Jackovitch, and they are presently at Abbotsford, B.C. Bill is a mechanic and has a small shop at Abbotsford. They have three sons, Todd, Robert and Michael.

Kenneth lives in Edmonton and works for Dicksons - a restaurant food supplier.

David married Lois Maze and they live at McLaughlin, Alberta. David works for Alberta Government Telephones at Lloydminster and Lois teaches in Saskatchewan.

Dorothy has graduated as a medical doctor and is now studying to become an anaesthesiologist. She is working and studying at the University Hospital in Edmonton.

Cindy has become a hairdresser and is living and working in Vancouver.

Leslie is still at home taking his last year of high school. He hopes to enter University in the fall of 1984.

Ivan sold the farm to Harvey Haun in 1972 and they moved to Edmonton. Ivan worked at real estate selling until 1980 when they moved to Wynnadel, B.C. This is very close to Creston and Leslie finished his schooling there. We enjoy the climate and the fruit of B.C. but miss our family and friends of the Irma district.

PAULVIN JOSEPH HARDY FAMILY

by Mildred Code (nee Hill)

Joe Hardy came to Irma from the Ohaton district in the first days of the village. He operated the Imperial Lumberyard when it was opened in 1910. On December 10th, 1911, he married Anna Irene Hill, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.T. Hill. In 1915 he built his own yard, the Farmers' Mutual Lumber Company, and operated this until he and his wife moved to Edmonton in 1933.

Some recollections of the 1920's in the Hardy household. As I lived five days a week with auntie and uncle Joe to attend school in Irma, the Hardy brothers and sisters were aunts and uncles to me, and I still regard some of their children as cousins.

At one time "P.J." Hardy was the Irma agent for General Motors. Many an evening we were off to discuss a car sale. Auntie and I would sit in the car and practise my reading and spelling (this I never did learn too well) while uncle Joe talked Buicks and Pontiacs. I am sure I knew more of the selling points of the cars than I did of the letters in my spelling.

Then there was the excitement of Chautauqua coming to town. Joe Hardy was always busy helping organize this. One year he bought me my own special reserved seat - which wasn't as special as it should have been, as I had to sit there instead of up front with my playmates.

Another memory is of a play put on by some of the Irma talent in the late 1920's. Many of the practices took place evenings in the Hardy home (now the McFarland house). I had never realized before how much fun adults could have.

I remember often when we drove past an alkali slough my aunt and uncle would have a little laugh. One time in one of their very first cars they were driving to Hardisty on a very hot day. Uncle Joe decided to cool off in an inviting looking pond. When he got in he decided he had made a mistake, but he coaxed until auntie joined him. They were certainly glad to reach home and wash away that little episode.

Then there was the fun we had on Steffensen's Lake the summer Dr. Greenberg and he had a little sailboat known as "The Catalina". If the wind went down too much to sail, someone could usually jump out and pull the boat back to shore.

On moving to Edmonton, Joe Hardy built up a wholesale lumber operation which was still in operation at the time of his death from a heart attack on November



Mr. and Mrs. P.J. Hardy.

17th, 1945.

After Joe's death, Irene Hardy ran the P.J. Hardy Wholesale Lumber Co. In 1947 Tom Foulkes joined her and they operated the business until the early fifties. Mrs. Hardy remained active at various jobs, her last was helping at Inglewood Hardware, for Mildred and Clark Code. She died in Edmonton in January of 1963.

ALLAN HARPER

Allan Harper came out with his dad and homesteaded on N.W. 16-46-8. When World War I broke out he joined the army and went overseas. After the war was over he came back and bought land - S.E. 20-46-8 - through the Soldier Settlement Board. He married Margaret Clark, the daughter of J.G. Clark of the "Clark Manor" in the Roseberry district. Four children were born in this marriage. Mrs. Harper taught Roseberry School for several years. Allan eventually took over the elevator at Jarrow. He was a good hardball player. Both Allan and Margaret have passed away. Steve Fucsko now owns this land.

BILL HARPER

as remembered by Norman Fluevog

Bill Harper homesteaded the N.W. 16-45-9-W4th in the early 1900. Most of his land was taken up by Harper's Lake (just north of Gulbraa's Lake. Bill never married. He was a Justice of the Peace and had an office in Irma which was later occupied by Bill Masson. As a sideline he bought cream for Burn's Creamery. He lived on the farm and commuted to Irma by horse and buggy.

Today twenty-six acres of the Harper land is owned by Don McKay. The part of the quarter across Harper's Lake is owned by Gulbraas. The house is still standing in Don McKay's yard, although it has fallen into disrepair.

On birthdays some men take a day off - and some women take off a year.

R.M. HARPER

In 1906 Mr. and Mrs. R.M. Harper came out west with their son Allan and took out homesteads in the Alma Mater district. Mr. Harper homesteaded the S.W. 18-46-8. He sold two acres of this land to the school district on which Alma Mater School was built. He later sold his homestead to Mr. Williams and moved over to his son's homestead while he was away in the army during World War I. Here he put up a house and barn and continued to farm. Mr. and Mrs. Harper lived there until they passed away.

MARIAN (DARLING) HARRISON

by Marian Harrison

I was born in the Wainwright Hospital the first daughter to my parents, Eugene and Orril Darling then farming in the Irma area. My parents moved first to a farm southwest of Vermilion and then to Prairie River, Saskatchewan. By that time I had one older brother and two younger sisters. By 1945 I had two younger brothers also, and the family was living on an acreage one and one-half miles south of the hamlet of Prairie River.

I began school at Prairie River walking the distance first with my older brother, Allan, and later with my other sisters and brothers. We were often accompanied by neighbor children living farther from school as we lived on the main road into Prairie River. One big event was the school Christmas concert for which our mother often sewed costumes. Spring and early summer brought track and field events in competition with several rural schools. We attended church and Sunday School in the hamlet.

The river just across the road from our house afforded us many pleasant hours during hot summer days as well as skating in winter.

In the summer of 1952 our family moved back to Alberta where my mother began to teach again at Sydenham School north of Wainwright. I had passed into grade eight by then and as there were no other grade eight students at Sydenham I was allowed to travel by bus to attend school in Wainwright with Mr. John Taylor as my teacher.

In 1953 we moved to the teacherage at the Holt Colony where my mother taught school. I attended school in Irma as there were no other grade nine students at Batt School where my younger sisters and brothers attended. As there was no transportation for me to get to Irma, I stayed with Neil and Ruby MacMillan and their two daughters, Elaine and Cheryl and rode bus to school. In February 1954 a tiny daughter, named Karen, arrived in the MacMillan household.

I joined C.G.I.T. and attended church in Irma. Mr. Inglis was our minister. The first friend I made in Irma was Alice Tomlinson (Willerton) but made many more lasting friendships at Irma during the years. Mr. Gunn was the school principal and Mrs. Ballentine was our room teacher.

I spent the next summer and the first part of the school year at Jack and Violet Savards northeast of Irma. Then back to MacMillans where sister Doris was also staying. I



Marian (Darling) Harrison in 1940.

played basketball and attended school dances this year. Miss Lucille Touchette, our French teacher, was the basketball coach. It was this year that I started to curl and Annie Milne was my first skip. When we had any activities on in the evening we often stayed in town with Grandpa and Grandma Fischer.

The summer of 1955 I worked for Gladys Evans whose husband Bert worked for the Northwestern Utilities. In the fall and winter of that year Jean, Doris and I bached in the basement suite at Bert and Gladys Evans while attending high school.

In the summer of 1956 I worked in Hardisty for Paul Drager at the I.H.C. dealership and boarded with Cliff and Jean Saville and Lou and Charlotte Golka. It was in Hardisty that I met Ian Harrison.

In September it was back to Irma to school but this year Jean, Bert Smith and I drove from home. Doris was staying at Stuart Fentons and helping there after school and on weekends. In November 1956 I became engaged to Ian Harrison. We were married in April of 1957.



Sharon McFayden, Trish Bergseth, Robert, Debra, Marian and Ian.

During my high school years in Irma I babysat for Dorcas and Keith Coffin, Fred and Lois Jack and for Betty Kirkman as Mr. Wes Parsons was coming courting.

We have lived all our married life in Hardisty where for a number of years Ian worked with his father in the store then known as the Red and White and now the Tom Boy. During the first years I kept house and took care of a growing family which proved a full-time job. We have three daughters and one son. Sharon married Dale McFayden, a Pool Elevator agent, and lives at Cereal. They have one daughter and one son. Patricia is married to Rick Bergseth and with her husband and one son and two daughters lives on a farm north of Lougheed. Debra, a special R.C.M.P. constable, is a security guard at the Calgary Airport and lives at Airdrie. Robert, still at home, works with us in the store.

Our first home was a rented apartment, then a small rented house and a small home of our own. In 1966 we built our present home on the southeastern outskirts of Hardisty but are now surrounded by residences. In 1966 we took over the store from Ian's father and since I have become a regular clerk.

I was a C.G.I.T. leader in Hardisty for six years, have been involved in figure skating, Minor Skatathon in which I skated, and now curl, golf, and am a member of the Order of Eastern Star and Order of the Royal Purple. Through the store business Ian and I have been on several trips which took us to Hawaii, Mexico and Florida. All my life so far has been somewhat busy.



Four generations: Marian Harrison, Orril Darling, Grandma Fischer holding first great-grandchild Sharon Harrison.

PETE HARVEY FAMILY

Pete Harvey, a native of Scotland, came to Winnipeg as a lad of fourteen years to join his brother, Art, and sister, Maggie. He worked at various jobs until he homesteaded in the Qu'Appelle Valley, near Enid, Saskatchewan.

Pete married Alice Simmons who loved the outdoor life and together they started a cattle ranch. Five children were born there - Duncan, Jim, Mae, Peter and Gordon.

In 1918 when Gordon was one year old the family decided to leave the drought and wind-blown land behind

and look for greener pastures. They came to Irma, Alberta, buying a farm near Roseberry School. Later they moved eight miles south of Irma to E. 1/2 of 28-44-9-W4th, now owned by Mrs. Robert Bell. Due to lack of water, the two-storey house was moved to the south end of the farm by twenty-eight teams of horses. Here four more children were born: Violet, Pearl, Ruby and Elvin.



Alice and Peter Harvey.

The midwife did not arrive in time so Pete had to deliver his daughter, Violet.

Pete had about one hundred head of Hereford cattle carrying the 2J brand. The Harveys farmed with thirty head of horses with the brand B8.

The Harvey's farm was a favorite gathering place for young people - especially on weekends. In the summer they held stampedes, ballgames and other sports plus any mischief they could think of. A favorite was Frankie Voros or Ross Hinkey riding a bucking barrel. Perhaps the good-looking Harvey family attracted lots of young men and women. Alice Harvey had lots of practice cooking. She made the best raisin pies and fifteen loaves of bread at a baking. The Sunday dinner table had to be set several times to accommodate the visitors. In winter there was skiing, skating or sliding down hills on skip-jacks. Alice loved to pick berries with Tillie Bell, one of her berry picking partners. She canned hundreds of quarts of fruit and vegetables.

The Harvey children went to Glenholm, Strawberry Plains and Silver Lane schools, walking four and one-half miles until they had a horse to ride. Mrs. Charlie Riley would wait at her gate with lemonade and cookies for them during the hot summer days. When the Bell children started school Jimmie furnished a buggy and the Bells and younger Harvey children went together. On one occasion Duncan, Jim, Peter and Mae were going to school with a horse and buggy. The horse stumbled, knocking itself out and sent kids flying in all directions. Mae was also knocked out and had an eye injury which kept her in a dark room for several days.

The Harveys were among those who helped start the Cactus Flats Stampede. Pete was the road boss for several years. Their house was used for an election office.

Pete leased a school section to pasture his stock. A twenty-foot well was dug and water was pulled by hand with a rope and pail to water cattle and horses numbering over one hundred head. Crop failures caused men to



Harvey family, 1983. Left to Right: Gordon, Ruby, Jim, Pearl, Elvin, Violet, Peter, Mae, Duncan.

leave their farms to seek employment. Pete and Vern Bronson went to Vancouver to visit Pete's sister Maggie, and to look for work. The hunt continued south to California. Later they took homesteads in the Lac la Biche area, but this did not pan out and the family returned to Irma. One of the horses found her way home from the north.

Duncan married Marjorie Shand on October 28th, 1938 at Namao, Alberta. They moved to the Berreth place for awhile and then back to Edmonton. They had three sons, Lawrence, Wayne and Leon. Duncan passed away at work on September 6th, 1966.

Jim married Stella Latham and they had three daughters, Audrey, Doreen and Faye. Stella was killed in Edmonton and Jim later married Elsie Love. They had two sons, Dale and Allen and a daughter, Alice. Jim passed away May 8th, 1982.

Mae married Vernon Seibrasse in 1931. They have two sons Ken and Dalton. After being divorced, Mae married Mel Smith of Redwater and they have a son Melvie.

Peter married Fern Stimson and they have four sons, Everett, Dwaine, Brian and Wade, all living in the Prince George area. Peter worked as a plumber until his retirement at Kelowna.

Gordon left the farm to join the Air Force. His plane was shot down over Germany and he was a prisoner of war for eleven months, first near the Polish border and

then near Stalag 13. Gordon married Lorraine Couturier and his sister, Ruby, married D.M. Street in a double wedding ceremony. Gordon has three children, Lance, Karen and Lynn. Gordon and Lorraine live in Kelowna.

Violet married Vern Bronson and they have two daughters, Zona and Shirley. They moved to California where Violet worked in a hospital until her retirement after open heart surgery. Violet passed away May 20th, 1981.

Ruby and her husband D.M. Street live at Red Deer. They have a daughter, Janice, and two sons, Bernie and Elton.

Elvin married Audrey Ennis and they have two sons, Doug and Glen and a daughter Susan.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey moved to Edmonton in 1942. Alice was seriously ill with cancer and passed away July 21st, 1945, only days after Gordon arrived home from overseas. Pete moved to Vernon, B.C. for a few months, but returned to Edmonton. He was with Mae at Redwater when he had a stroke and passed away April 19th, 1953.

PHYLO JEFFERSON HARVEY

by Gladys Holt

Phylo Jefferson Harvey was known to all as P.J. He came to stay with us in 1933. He was born and raised in Arkansas, first cousin of Mrs. Charles Holt. He had come to Canada with Charles Holt in 1905. They both went for their families and returned in 1906.

P.J. settled in Southern Saskatchewan and raised his family of three girls and one son. When he came to us he was alone. His wife died and part of his family moved to California. One daughter married and remained at Maple Creek.

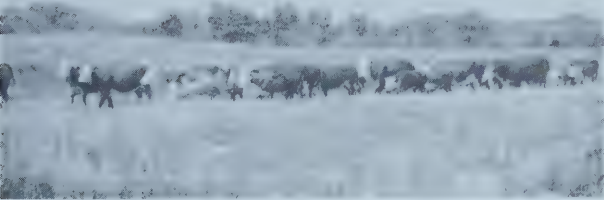
P.J. was a great boon to all of us. A great friend and always ready to lend a helping hand, indoors and out. He was a good horseman and taught our boys many ways and tricks of handling and breaking horses. He also did a bit of farming on his own. In the spring of 1946 he passed away. He was greatly missed by our family and friends in the Batt and Irma District.



P.J. Harvey

BURTON AND HELENA HAUN

Burton Haun was born in Stevensville, Ontario, on October 25, 1866 to John and Sarah Haun, who were of Dutch descent. He attended school until he was in grade



Herd of cattle (Harvey).

three. At the age of nine he quit and went to work in his father's woolen mill. When he was twenty, his father bought a saw mill in Prairie Sound, Ontario and Burton went there to manage it. About twelve years later, after the mill burned, he worked in a silverware factory at Niagara Falls.

In June, 1875 Helena Marie Ashton was born at London, Ontario, to a schoolteacher, Elias Ashton and his wife Laura (Saunders) Ashton. On October 1, 1898, Burton and Helena were married in Prairie Sound, and moved to Niagara Falls, Ontario, where Burton worked and their first child, Laura was born.

In the early 1900's, they went by train to Minot, North Dakota where they homesteaded. Due to the cold, stormy winters, they sold their homestead and moved to a farm in the Fort Saskatchewan area. Burton and Helena travelled by rail and were accompanied by Helena's parents, the Ashton's. Two years later Burton and Helena homesteaded in the Irma area on the northwest quarter of 2-47-8-W4. At that time there was no railway



Delbert (John), Burton, Donald, Helena and Edward (Buck).

at Irma, so lumber was shipped to Mannville and hauled to the farm in a horsedrawn wagon to build the house. It was one large room on the ground floor and two rooms upstairs.

The first brush on the Haun homestead was cut with a hay mowing machine and the breaking was done with horses and oxen. A dugout sod barn was erected south of the house and later the current house and barn was built.

As there was no school nearby, Laura Haun and Roy Moulton, who lived with the Haun's, rode horseback to attend the Orbindale School. Edward, when nine years of age, went to Roseberry School for a few months with the Abel Oldham and the Sawdon children. They shared a buggy and after snowfall, they had a cutter or a sleigh. As the weather was very cold Edward quit school at Christmas, and started again in the spring when Gerald Allen drove a team and democrat picking up the Ford and Haun children and took them to the Orbindale School. That summer, in 1921, the Avonglen School was built on the S.W. 2-47-8, and here the Haun children attended school until it closed in 1951. Burton was a founding member of the school board and served as a

trustee for many years. Burton and Helena were active in the community, taking part in the picnics and dances. There were box socials, where the ladies prepared a lunch in a decorated box and shared it with the gentleman who paid the highest price at the auction. They also had pie socials and masquerades. Burton belonged to the Irma Co-op and supported the Farm Union of Alberta and Helena belonged to the Farm Union Women of Alberta.

Burton Haun had a steam engine and a threshing machine and he would move from farm to farm in the fall threshing the crops for the neighbors. Many years he would work until Christmas. In 1914, Burton purchased their first car, a Model T Ford. This was a big event and everyone got excited. When they came to a gate and Burton got out to open it, the car started to roll. Helena, who was in the passenger seat hollered "Whoa!" as the car rolled into the ditch. The car didn't listen as well as a horse. When they finally arrived home and went to make tea, Helena lit the stove. Burton got a dipper full of water. Instead of putting the water in the kettle he opened the stove and poured it in the fire.

Burton died with a heart attack in October 1943 and Helena passed away on February 5, 1954. They were laid to rest in the Irma cemetery. The children of Burton and Helena Haun are;

Laura Sarah, born July 23, 1899, at Niagara Falls, Ontario. She married Mont New and passed away in childbirth January 27, 1930. The baby, Gladys, passed away one year later.

Charles Arthur was born in Minot, North Dakota, and died at the age of four with consumption.

Edward Arthur was born on January 17, 1911 at Fort Saskatchewan. He married Marjorie Ellen Brink and to this union five children were born; Donald, Richard, Harvey, Charlotte (Smith), and Vernon.

Delbert was born on February 16, 1913, at the homestead and farmed with his father and brother, Edward. He passed away on July 25, 1979.

Gladys Elmyra was born in October 1914, at the farm and she passed away at the age of thirteen with pneumonia.

EDWARD AND MARJORIE HAUN

Edward Arthur Haun was born January 17, 1911, at Fort Saskatchewan, to Burton and Helena Haun. They were living on their homestead at Irma N.W. 2-47-8. As her parents lived at Fort Saskatchewan, Helena went home to have the baby. His Aunt Lucy nicknamed him Buster and as his little sister, Gladys, couldn't pronounce this when she started to talk, she shortened it to Bucky. After that Edward was better known as Buck to all his friends and family.

One thing that stuck in Edward's mind when he was small was George Wade breaking for them with his team of oxen. He would water his oxen then brush back the slime in the trough and take a drink himself.

When Edward completed his grade eight at the Avonglen School, he became a very successful farmer, farming with his father and later joined by his brother, Delbert. Everyone on the farm had to work and pull



Richard, Marjorie, Edward, Donald, Charlotte, Vernon, and Harvey Haun.

their weight. When Edward and Delbert were in their early teens, they purchased two 15-30 International tractors and two breaking plows, spending two summers breaking for their neighbors. Late one night when they finished work for one farmer and decided to move on, they didn't want to disturb the family, so slept in the first building they came to. When they awoke the next morning the rooster was crowing. They were sleeping in one end of the hen house and the chickens were in the other. At the end of a hard day breaking, Edward and Delbert would drain the warm water out of the radiator into two washtubs and take turns bathing. One night when they were at Frye's, their bath was cut short when they had to chase after one of King's cows, who took the soap and ran off. As they tried to catch her, she ate it and foam was flying everywhere.

On January 12, 1939 Edward married Marjorie Ellen, youngest daughter of William and Lillian (Rouse) Brink. Edward became a trustee of the Avonglen School at the age of nineteen and remained on the board until the school closed in 1951. He was also a member of the Roseberry Farmers Union, the Irma Co-op, the Alberta Wheat Pool, and the U.G.G. Marjorie was also a member of the Battle River Women of Unifarm.

Edward lived on the farm his father homesteaded until his passing on August 28, 1971. Later Marjorie married John Mills and resides in Wainwright.

Edward and Marjorie had five children;

Donald Edward (February 1, 1940), married Florence Gereldine (Cooper) on July 8, 1960, and have two children; Douglas Delbert (May 21, 1961) and Lorraine Elitha Ellen (March 31, 1963). Don and Florence farm north of Fabyan.

Richard Burton (July 3, 1947) married Joyce Marie (Weder) on November 6, 1965, and they have one daughter Sherry Lee (November 20, 1967). Richard and Joyce farm in the Irma area.

Harvey William Haun (February 12, 1952) married Sharon Elizabeth (Smith) on January 29, 1972 and they have two sons; Edward Arthur (April 17, 1973), and

Darcy Patrick (February 25, 1975). Harvey and Sharon live on Burton Haun's homestead, N.W. 2-47-8.

Charlotte Ellen (September 21, 1953) married Donald George Smith on October 21, 1972 and they have two children Terry-Lynn Ellen (May 11, 1976) and Mark Patrick (November 2, 1977). Don and Charlotte farm in the Camrose area.

Vernon Charles (March 18, 1955) married Annette Marie (Smith) on November 10, 1974 and have two children; Brandy Jean (August 4, 1977) and Charles Delbert (January 2, 1979). Vernon and Annette live on S.W. 1-47-8, in the Irma area.



Vernon, Donald, Richard, Harvey, Marjorie and Charlotte Haun.

ROY HAY

I, Roy William Hay, was born on February 13th, 1889, near a little country Post Office named Marvelville, which is situated on the boundary between the counties of Russell and Carleton, about twenty-five miles from Ottawa, Ontario. It was an area settled mostly by British descendants with French neighbors coming later. My father was of Scottish descent, while Mother was of Irish descent, her maiden name being Argue (Margaret). I was the eldest of a family of eight, five girls and three boys, three of whom died in infancy, one sister in her teens, and the oldest sister about ten years ago. Only three of us are left, my brother George and sister Jean, Mrs. Cecil Acres, both living near our old home, and myself, the wanderer.

In 1905 I took a four month business course at the Ontario Business College in Belleville, Ontario. While I was there my mother took a stroke and was partly paralyzed on her left side. I was offered work when I finished my course, but owing to mother's sickness I was asked to go home as I was needed there. I continued there until 1910 when I heeded the prevalent slogan there at that time, "young man go West". I went on the harvesters' excursion on August 9th, 1910 and landed at Sedley, Saskatchewan, on the Arcola branch on the C.P.R. about thirty-six miles east of Regina. I worked there through the harvest and threshing, and even did some fall plowing before freeze-up.

My cousin Wm. R. McEwen had come west around 1906 and had taken land in the Albert district between

Irma on the Grand Trunk Pacific, as it was then known, and Mannville on the old Canadian Northern, both later part of the Canadian National. After finishing working at Sedley, I came up to visit him and landed in Mannville on November 9th, 1910. He had three quarters, a South African Veteran's Scrip which he had purchased, and his homestead. The scrip was placed on the N 1/2 14-48-9-W4th and his homestead, the S.W. 1/4. The S.E. of the same section, had been filed on but was not being improved and was liable for cancellation. I went to the Land Office in Innisfree and placed a cancellation on it. I went back East and arrived home before Christmas. Some time later I received notice from the Land Office that my cancellation was granted and I had until July 29th, 1911 to file on the quarter as my homestead. This would be about two weeks before the harvesters' excursions would start when I could get out West for ten dollars. If I could get the date extended two weeks or so I would save about forty dollars, a large sum in those days. The Hon. Frank Oliver, who was the founder of the Bulletin in Edmonton, was the Minister of the Interior in Laurier's cabinet at that time and homestead regulations were part of his responsibility. So, I went in to Ottawa to interview him, a daring and presumptuous thing, as I thought of it afterwards, for an unsophisticated lad of twenty-one. However, he listened attentively to my story and then said "well my young man, if you want that homestead, you better get out and get it". I did want that homestead - I got the forty dollars somehow, and took the train at Ottawa.

Willie McEwen's sister, Jessie, was a schoolteacher and had decided to go west to teach and we went together. We arrived in Vermilion on July 29th, 1911, and I filed on my homestead and Jessie went to see Mr. Parker, who was School Inspector and lived in Vermilion, and she was hired to teach at Landonville, some thirty or forty miles north of Vermilion. I took the train to Mannville and hired a livery to take me and my trunk to the homestead. There was a small shack on the homestead, as well as a dry well thirty-six feet deep, with a square crib made of lumber. The shack was moved to a different location, and it was decided to dig another well, using the cribbing from the dry one already dug, and I started to do my homestead duties. I bought four oxen from Edward Webb, whose homestead was the N.W. 22-48-9-W4th, also a sixteen inch sulky breaking plow from Eaton's, but did not do any breaking until the next year in 1912. Willie had a crop in 1911, about sixty acres, but the wheat was quite badly frozen and graded feed. I helped him with the harvest and hired with Marks Brothers, as fireman at two dollars and fifty cents per day, for the threshing season. They had a big Case steam outfit.

It was the custom in Alberta at this time to close the schools in the winter rather than taking summer holidays, and Jessie's school at Landonville was following this custom. She wanted Willie to go with her and they would go home for Christmas. At first he did not think he could go as he had promised to help Robert Conn, whose homestead was the S.E. 22-48-9-W4th, to dig a well, and also, he was to help me dig

mine. But after some persuasion by telling him I could help Conn and he could dig mine when he came back, he decided to go. Little did we know what was coming or surely we would have done differently, but that was not to be. They returned around the fourth of March. The family of Robert Service, his brothers and sisters and mother, his father had died previously, had their farm on section 34-48-9-W4th, and were having an auction sale on March 4th. Willie and I went to the sale with Jack Jones, who came along with a team and sleigh. I had dug my well down as far as I could throw the ground out and we started the next day to dig it down further until we needed curbing. We then started to take the lumber out of my dry well so that we could use it to curb and finish the new one. It never was finished because of the tragedy that happened on Tuesday, March 12, 1912.

Mr. Conn was helping us. We had rigged a windlass on the well and Willie was down in the well on the rope attached to the windlass which I was handling at the top. Mr. Conn was pulling up the lumber that Willie tied to another rope. We had about six or eight feet of the curbing up, when all at once Willie said "pull up, Roy pull up". I did so immediately but in seconds there was ten feet of sand and gravel over him. The curbing had collapsed and the gravel ran in like water.

We got word to Jessie as soon as we could, and also to Katie Hay, another cousin who was teaching at Heatherbell at the time. I also sent a telegram to my father so that he could give the terrible news to Willie's mother and family. Jessie and Katie came soon after and stayed at the Reids in Scotstoun and a telegram came from the East asking us to bring Willie's body home for burial.

It took until Friday, almost four days to get Willie's body out of the well. We had to get lumber and a new crib built and all the time the gravel kept running in with the danger that someone else would be buried. But we were fortunate in getting him out without further loss. We had much generous help from all our neighbors. Owing to railroad regulations and other reasons, the family had decided that burial was to be in Mannville. Funeral service was held in the Mannville Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 17th, 1912, conducted by the Rev. Weir and interment was in the Mannville cemetery.

Mr. Conn and I farmed together for several years after Willie's death. We worked his land on shares along with our homesteads. We each did breaking on our land and I got mine fenced. I also built a sod stable and sod shack and went threshing again with Marks Brothers after harvest. We had decided to invest in cattle and when threshing was over I went back East to purchase a carload of dairy cattle. After about two months I loaded thirty-four head of cattle and a young mare, a gift from my father, and arrived in Mannville on February 24th, 1913. It was a nice warm day but before we got the cattle home, the mercury dropped fifty degrees with a strong wind and drifting snow. We had a very difficult time with lots of hardship and some loss of cattle. However, we saved a good number

of milch cows. We sold a few to Joe Fleming, and to Hartley Baldwin, and also to James Finlay, who lived north of Mannville. We, Robert Conn and myself, milked a few and shipped cream. I broke about thirty acres on my homestead and did some for neighbors. Percy Kinson, whose homestead was the S.E. 28-48-9-W4th, had built a fence around my homestead in exchange for breaking. I also built an addition to my shack. Mr. Conn had two oxen and a walking plow and did some breaking on his homestead and so the summer went by. I went threshing again with Marks Brothers during harvest as fireman.

After threshing was finished I went back East again before Christmas, and on January 14th, 1914, was united in marriage with a school chum, Myrtle Enid Brunton. After a busy round of visiting and celebrations with our many friends and relations, we arrived back in Irma in early March. We came out to the homestead with Joseph Fleming who was the mail driver and also Postmaster at Zoldovara in his own home, the N.W. 2-48-9-W4th. We had supper with him and Mrs. Fleming, after which he took us over to our homestead. Mr. Conn had been married also while I was away and he and his wife, Emma, were at our place to welcome us.

Then came the war years with so many of our friends and neighbors joining the armed forces, some never to return. We endured scarcity of some things and high prices on others. My father had purchased the McEwen land from the family in the East and now we had a whole section to farm. In 1918 we had a disastrous frost in July, which froze all our crops and we had little or nothing to thresh. We had to purchase all our seed the next spring with oats at one dollar per bushel and wheat two dollars, high prices for those days.

In 1918 or '19, the Municipal District of Buffalo Coulee was formed and after the first year I took on the job of auditing their books. This was the first work I did as a result of attending Business College earlier, and it was a pleasant experience. Mr. Arthur Curtis was the secretary and the office was in the home of his daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Reg Staden. They were the finest of people and made me very welcome and comfortable. I also audited for the M.D. of Battle River with their office in Irma and Jack Tate as secretary-treasurer for a number of years.

Mr. Curtis passed away in 1931 and the Council advertised for a secretary. I made application and was fortunate in being accepted, and so, the office was moved to my homestead. I had built on an extra room for the purpose, with James Craig as carpenter and I started as secretary-treasurer on January 1st, 1932.

Our son, Arthur, was born on September 15th, 1931 and attended Albert school almost five years. We moved to Mannville in 1942, where he attended school, through to finish eleventh grade. We would have liked him to continue, at least, to finish the twelfth grade, but he did not seem interested and worked in a garage for awhile and then went to a welding school in Edmonton. After graduation he worked at several places, including Grande Prairie where he met his future wife,

Shirley Ann Clarke. Her parents had a store and a number of motels and a gas station at Grande Prairie. She came with Arthur to visit us and we were very pleased with her. They were married in December, 1954 at Grande Prairie, and are now living in Edmonton. They now have two children, Cathy was eleven on her last birthday, and Bradley, was two last June.

After I became secretary-treasurer of the M.D., I hired Willie Ramsay to carry on the farm work and later the land was rented to Ted Allen. This went on for ten years until 1942, when the Municipal Districts of Buffalo Coulee, Lake View, Birch Lake, and Melberta were amalgamated. Birch Lake Office was in Innisfree with R.T. Dorward as secretary, while Mel Cundal was in charge of Melberta office in Mannville. A six member council was elected and a secretary and assistant was to be appointed. All the old secretaries applied. I was not successful but did receive the appointment of assistant to R.T. Dorward who was appointed secretary. This made it necessary to move into Mannville and this was done in the spring of 1942. The next question was where the office was to be. At the first meeting of the council it was decided that it would be Minburn. A new office was to be built but in the meantime the two offices at Innisfree and Mannville would be in use, Mr. Dorward in Innisfree and myself in Mannville. Later it was decided to have it in Mannville and an addition to the office was built and Mr. Dorward also moved to Mannville.

This was continued for another twelve years when Mr. Dorward resigned owing to his health. He suffered from asthma and at times would be hardly able to breathe and would cough for minutes at a time. He was a native of Scotland, Mrs. Dorward too, and was a wonderful boss to work for and with. After resigning, he moved to Edmonton where he lived in retirement until he passed away in September of 1959. I was appointed secretary-treasurer in 1954 and carried on until the end of 1963. I have lived in retirement since, continuing and extending my hobby of beekeeping, procuring sixteen hundred and twenty-five pounds of honey in 1965 and twenty-five hundred pounds in 1966.

We have always considered ourselves as being very fortunate in many ways. First would be the location in Albert and Scotstoun districts, with neighbors and friends beyond compare. We were convinced long ago that we couldn't have chosen a better neighborhood. Next would be the associations with, first the Presbyterian and later the United Church at Scotstoun and Mannville, and also through the many years that Mr. Reeves came to Albert School, the associations and friendships and memories that that produced.

In spite of the tragedy in the early years in the loss of my cousin and in spite of drought and sometimes poor crops and some sickness, on the whole we have had a happy life and much to be thankful for. Now in retirement we can look back and recall many, many happy incidents and occasions while we lived in the Albert and Scotstoun districts and later in Mannville.

Editor's Note: Myrtle Hay died October 5th, 1968 and Roy Hay passed away February 13th, 1976.

JIM AND DOLLY HEARN

I, Dolly, was born in Peterborough, England in 1895. I came out to Canada in 1926 on the boat *Empress of France*. I worked in Edmonton for a year doing housework. Then I was married to Jim Hearn and went to Irma and started living on a farm. The first year was hard on me as I had to get snow in and melt it for ten to fifteen head of horses and cattle. The people who the farm belonged to went to town to live and didn't get the pump fixed until they came back to the farm. By then I was expecting a baby so I went back to work until my baby, Winnie, was born and my husband got a house for us to live in. It was only two rooms. All it had in it was a stove, bed, table and chairs. I had bought bedding and dishes to bring home with me.

Then the depression hit us. It was hard to make ends meet. We had a cow and some hens so we had milk and cream and eggs. If I was able to save some eggs and butter to sell, I took them to town and traded them for groceries. We sold butter to people in town for twenty-five cents a pound. The cow was a good milker so I was able to make around ten pounds of butter a week. We lived in the little house for several years, then moved into a four room house.

The school (Strawberry Plains) was on the same quarters of land so I had the school teachers boarding with me. I had them for nearly twenty years. They all paid twenty dollars a month for room, board and washing.



Jim Hearn on Purvis farm, 1928.

We lived six miles from town so we used to make our own entertainment by putting on dances in the school every other week, or a bingo once in a while. The ladies had to bring the lunches and the men paid twenty-five cents each. We made coffee at my house and the men fetched it when we wanted it. We only had pick up music, two to three pieces and sometimes they would get a few dollars, not ever more than ten dollars between them.

On the weekends we weren't at the school, we would go to farmers' houses and played cards and visited. At harvest time the women all helped each other so it didn't cost anything, but we had to give the men three good meals a day and take out lunches twice a day. If the



Hearn Family. Dolly, Jim, and daughter, Winnie.

weather was good you might get rid of them in a few days, but if it rained you might have them for a week or more.

In 1948 they closed the school and sent the kids to town. We found we couldn't make a living on a quarter of land so we left it and came to Hardisty to live. I worked for a time in the hotel upstairs and did babysitting. We made out alright until we got the old age pensions.

My husband died in 1976.

Editor's Note: Dolly Hearn passed away Dec. 30, 1983.

JAMES ALLAN HEDLEY

Jim Hedley was born near Parkhill, Ontario on November 11th, 1883. He came to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 1910. Early in 1911 he continued westward to Edmonton, Alberta, where he worked at his trade as a barber until the outbreak of World War I. Enlisting for overseas service he joined the 66th Battalion, later transferring to the 49th Battalion, Edmonton Regiment. He was wounded at Vimy Ridge.

Jim returned to Canada in the spring of 1919 after serving four years overseas. He attended regularly the annual Church Parades and Reunions of the 49th Edmonton Regiment.

In 1921 Jim came to Irma where he bought the poolroom and barbershop and continued in that business until illness forced him to retire in 1944. He took a great interest in the Irma district and during his years here he had been Mayor of the village, a trustee on the local school board, and active in the affairs of the Canadian Legion, Irma Branch. He was granted a life membership on February 19th, 1953.

Jim was a member of the I.O.O.F., the Army and Navy and Airforce Veterans of Canada, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks Irma Lodge No. 336. He was a shareholder in the Irma Hotel Association. In sports Jim managed the Irma Hockey Club and Irma Baseball team for a number of years.

Jim passed away on August 5th, 1960.

It's inflation when you have to pay \$5.00 for the \$2.00 haircut you used to get for \$1.00 when you had hair.

BRUCE HENDERSON

Bruce Henderson homesteaded SE 12-45-9. He and his brother Jack did a lot of carpenter work in the Irma area. Neither were married when they lived here. They moved back to Edmonton. Bob Dempsey owns the land.



Art and Bruce Henderson - horse and buggy. Homestead Days.



Bruce Henderson and brother Jack.

ROLAND HERBERT

by Evaline Pyle

Mr. and Mrs. Roland Herbert moved from Evesham, Saskatchewan to Deville, Alberta, in 1918 with their family of four and their cattle, horses and household effects. They lived here for two years where Eldon was born in March, 1920. It seemed hard to make a living in this place so a farm was bought at Irma, just eighty acres where there were buildings and was bought from an Indian family. In the summer of 1921 after school was finished we moved all our effects to Irma, Alberta, where we lived on that same farm until we all went our separate ways. Two more quarter sections of land were purchased later and is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Thurston.

After the family was moved to Irma it was quite a struggle to try to make a living. We milked as high as twenty-two cows, all by hand, and shipped cream. This did indeed keep the wolf from the door. Father used to go around selling tailor made clothes and in the fall he used to cook on a cook car at threshing time. He also cooked for the highway crew from Wainwright, through to Vermilion. He and his eldest daughter used to play for

dances in the winter time, didn't make much money but it all helped. Father also hunted coyotes which netted him a very neat sum.



Roland Herbert family. Standing: Vera, Verna, Evaline. Sitting: Violet (mother) holding Lloyd, Dalton and Roland (father) holding Eldon.

In the spring of 1922 Lloyd was born, which meant another mouth to feed and also look after. Mother used to hitch her little horse up in the buggy to take her cream to town, to get her groceries and whatever else was needed. At that time we had a creamery in town and could get the cheque in a matter of a few minutes. All our farming was done by horses as we had no tractor or car until Lloyd was old enough to run both. Dad was a very handy man, he did all his own repairing, mending harness, sharpening his own plow shares and whatever else there was to do, like keeping the kids shoes sewn up and half soled. Our old house decided to cave in so Mother and Lloyd bought the Glenholm school house and had it moved home where Bill Veer and Co. put in a full sized basement. Some work had to be done on it like making bedrooms, etc. After this was finished it became a nice warm and comfortable place to live. They also had a new barn built.

They went on farming quite a number of years, until Dad became ill, he wasn't very well for about five years, finally passing away in the fall of 1950. Lloyd carried on until the fall of 1969 when the work was getting too much for him to handle, so he had a sale and moved to Wainwright, Alberta. Lloyd had been stricken with rheumatic fever when a boy and it left him with a weakened hip joint. This bothered him considerably as he grew older. After they were settled in Wainwright he got a job in the Co-op lumberyard, which he had at the time of his death in March, 1974.

Mother then came to live with Charlie and me for two years and then she got sick, which made her hard to manage so was moved to the Auxiliary Hospital where she passed away the 31st of August, 1978 at the age of ninety-one years.

The remaining part of the family is living in different places and all growing older.

Bears Watching

**The man who has never lied to his wife
(Or so he claims to lie)
Is one to beware of . . . because he's apt
To lie about other things, too.**

MR. AND MRS. RUEBEN HERDER FAMILY

by Nina Kellar

Miss Lillian Krenelka was born in Marvin, South Dakota in 1900. At the age of three her folks, furniture and horses came by train to Wetaskiwin. From here they all travelled by horse and wagon to Daysland where they homesteaded. Lillian took her schooling at Daysland. At the age of twenty-three, she met and carried on a romance with Rueben Herder.

Later the two were united in marriage and they started their life's journey by farming at Daysland for several years. Of course the first thing to do was to purchase a car, so they managed to scrape a few dollars together to purchase a 1925 Model T Ford. Then guess what - the next few years to them were born three children, Gladys, Hazel and Gordon.

These years were very lean as the summers were very dry, so in 1928 (while leaving behind her mother, Caroline Krenelka, to farm at Daysland) Rueben and Lillian moved to Fabyan where they rented land for several years. As times in the thirties were pretty lean they couldn't scrape up enough money to buy land, so they always had to rent. While here two more children livened the household, these being two little girls, Grace and Evelyn. These five children took part of their schooling in Fabyan. In 1931 a new Lawson tractor and plow became part of the Herder farm.

This tractor was used on this farm for two years. Then in 1933, Mother, Father and five children journeyed to the Irma district and purchased a quarter of land on N.W. 36-46-W4th. Later on they bought another quarter as they were able to obtain a little more money. During these next few years, would you believe that another boy and girl entered the house! This time it was Eddie and Nina. By the time we two were growing up, our brothers and sisters had pretty well gone out to work so we grew up by ourselves.

Most of the family attended Education Point school and some took a bit of high school in Irma.

Gladys, the oldest, was married to Ed Lura, and they settled in Edmonton where they have three children.

Hazel resided in Vancouver and is a spinster. Gordon, a bachelor, resides on the home farm at Irma and is still farming.

Grace ventured to Langley, B.C. and married Roy Seifred and they have four children.

Evelyn resides in Edmonton, married to Ronald Currie and they have four children. Nina lives in the Irma area, is married to Lawrence Kellar and they have three children, two of them are presently attending school in Irma.

In 1966, Mrs. Krenelka moved from Vancouver and resided at the Herder home. In June, 1968 she celebrated her one hundredth birthday which was held in Edmonton at the home of her granddaughter. At this memorable age she was still active at sewing, cooking and was mentally alert and quite capable of getting around with no cane or help. On this occasion she received numerous telegrams, congratulations and gifts. She enjoyed good health until the age of one hundred and three, when she fell and



Rueben Herder with his 1925 Ford car.

broke her hip. She outlived five of her seven children at the time of her passing.

Mrs. Lillian Herder is presently living in the Chacutenah Manor in Irma and at the age of eighty-three is still enjoying good health.



Mrs. Herder and her mother's one hundredth birthday.

HERRICK FAMILY

The senior Herricks were early settlers in the Willowview district on the farm now owned by Phil Holt. Nerine Hunter can remember Mrs. Herrick wearing long dresses and sunbonnets. The Shippy children called her Grammie.

After the senior Herricks were gone son Jack and his wife Molly lived on this land. Howard Herrick bached where Morris Oracheski lived until he married Goldia (Shippy) Blaine. They then moved onto the Herrick place being the third generation to take over that land.

Goldia and Howard milked cows and sold cream as well as maintaining a range herd.

Goldia raised lots of turkeys and was a wonderful gardener. She took great pride in her flowers.

Howard and Goldia had no children.



Goldia and Howe Herrick.

GEORGE AND FRED HIGGINSON

by Elizabeth (Higginson) Urquhart

About 1906 George and Fred Higginson, lured by the promise of free land, moved from their home near Hamilton, Ontario to the Irma district to take up homesteading. One of our father's closest neighbors was Mr. McIlroy, a bachelor who used to play the fiddle for their parties. As the party progressed he would play Red Wing quite often.

In 1913 our father married Alice Archer, a graduate nurse from the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. Soon after our uncle Fred married Edith Richardson, a widow from Colborne whom he had met at our mother and father's wedding.

The following is part of a newsletter written by Alice Higginson in 1963 when she was eighty-five years of age.

Soon after Christmas 1912 my old beau came to Campbellford to see me. We were married quietly at Christ Church, Campbellford on March 12th, 1913, leaving right after the service for Irma, Alberta. Mr. King met us at the station. As I stepped off the train my freight which had been sent some time ahead, was sitting on the platform which had just arrived a train ahead of us. Mr. King had a high democrat as the snow was about gone. We rattled over the frozen road. It was away below zero and in spite of my fur coat and warm clothing, I arrived at the King house about perished. We had canned saskatoons for supper and I saw the boys separate the milk in the kitchen. We stayed the night and went to George's place the next morning. A bachelor neighbor had built the front part of the house but it was not joined to the shack which was to be the kitchen.

I had many pretty things to fix up our home. One day I went to Mrs. King's and stayed while some neighbors helped George move the shack and attach it to the house. On the way over to Mrs. King's there was a big slough on the road. The top was frozen, I was on horseback and old Dick had to break the ice every step; I was frightened. Late in the evening George came to help me get home. We went through a field to avoid that awful slough. The word "slough" must have been coined by the early settlers for the first thing I did was to get my dictionary

out and found that there was no such word.

There was much to be done. The bachelor who looked after things when George came east was a terrible housekeeper. There was a three cornered shelf piled high with dirty dishes, the food all dried on. When the mosquitoes were bad they built a smudge in the kitchen stove and took the lids off. My photo was on the shack wall in a frame. The glass was so smoked you could not tell who the gal was.

I know that Fred and Albert, George's brothers, were often at the shack. They had their homesteads which had to be lived on for so many months during the year. Twenty acres of land had to be broken before they could get the deed for the land. George had planted a fine windbreak - North West Maples all around the corner and behind the house, also ash trees. The yard was frightfully untidy and the inside of the shack just awful. I had to wash grease off the wall for they hung the frying pan up without washing it. I soon got things looking nice with a carpet on the living room floor, pretty curtains on all windows and pink woven rugs in the bedroom to match my sweet-pea curtains.

The well diggers put down a well near the house but to our great disappointment the water turned out to be a strong alkali. It was so hard we could not use it for dishes or washing. It gave us all cramps and even the horses were full of nasty gas. In winter we had to melt snow for everything and this was a big job. We would shove the cutter outside the gate to get clean snow, then bring it back near the kitchen door so I wouldn't have far to carry it. In early spring the sloughs were full of water. George had a barrel on a stoneboat. He would fill it up at the slough and haul it near the kitchen door. As the weather got warmer the slough water was full of bugs and had to be strained. George would dig down a couple of feet near a slough and get water for cooking that would seep through the earth and be free of bugs. Very often this was cloudy and would have to settle. Knowing that I wouldn't have a bathroom I had sent out a long tin bathtub. This we used in the kitchen after we had a bathtub full of nice soft water from melted snow.

Spring was now very near. We saw an advertisement that the Watkinsons had chickens for sale, so we drove away up in the country and bought the lot. I fattened the roosters and sold them to my brother in Calgary. I borrowed an incubator from Mr. Burton and raised chickens. George made me chicken coops and I soon had a good start in the poultry business. I set turkey eggs and raised a few turkeys for sale and our own use. The hen house was made of sod. Often coyotes came and stole hens.

To go back to the early days before our marriage - Fred, Albert and George came west and filed for homesteads. Fred and Albert got work on the C.N.R. working with the surveyors. George drove the mail. He had a cutter, a nice team and good buffalo robes. I think the mail would be from Wainwright as far as the road had been built. Fred and Albert would put in their time on the land and then go with the surveyors the remainder of the year. Fred and Albert came with George to Campbellford when we were married. Fred met Edith Richardson who was a first cousin with one child, Eric.

Edith had met Fred some years before when she was visiting in Campbellford. In between she met her first husband and lived in Denver. After her husband's death she came home to live in Colborne. Edith and Fred were married in 1914, about a year after George and I. Fred and Edith lived at Sunny Brae, two miles from us. Albert never married. He travelled for an implement company.

The first fall we were in the west, my brother and a friend came from Calgary to shoot prairie chickens. They were very plentiful, roosting on the fences and around the barn to pick up feed. Soon they were frightened away so George would harness a team to the wagon, we would all pile in and go to Albert's east quarter section. My brother would get the prairie chickens all ready and I would put in a dressing. When we heard they were coming we killed a pig and with our own chickens we were able to put on some good meals. The brick chimney had not yet been built so we lived mostly in the kitchen. I think the men slept in the living room as at that time the upstairs flooring was not in. One Sunday afternoon George and I went to call on a neighbor. The two men went walking over the open country with their guns. When we were coming home we met them on the road. They were lost, hadn't any idea where the house was so they were very glad to meet us. I had made catsup from rose hips, spiced saskatoons that were so good with the prairie chickens. I also made saskatoon and pincherry jam, and canned saskatoons solid without sugar. They were like fresh fruit in the winter with sugar and cream on them. My brother had brought up a steamer trunk. He went home with it packed solid with prairie chickens.

The first winter was not a hard one. I remember writing home in January that the chickens were out scratching around the barnyard. My mother wrote back that she hadn't seen the neighbor's chickens out all winter, it was such a cold winter in the east. The spring was welcome. We were so glad of the slough water as melting snow was a big job. I put in our first garden. My brother sent me rhubarb roots and I put in rhubarb seed. The latter is best not used until the third year. The soil was so good we had a lovely garden and not long before we had rhubarb to mix with saskatoons, pin cherries etc.

It was really fun but hardship came when our small crops would not pay expenses - when a bad winter came and feed was always short for the animals. We tried our best in wells, put down a few bored wells but the supply of water was never sufficient for the stock.

When I found out a baby was coming, my mother sent me money to go home for the event. Mr. and Mrs. King were going east; I went along. Elizabeth Archer Higginson was born March 4th, 1915. We came home to Irma in April. The United Church minister met us and took us to the parsonage where Elizabeth had a nice bath in a big white washbasin on the kitchen table. George came in for us late that afternoon. I suppose he was tidying the house in the morning.

Before the baby came I used to ride over to Mrs. King's for milk. One day our cow had a calf. She was tied up in a bluff and she had the chain tangled all over the calf. It was my job to free the calf.

When the war ended in 1918 a bad flu worldwide broke out. The United Church was turned into a hospital. I

nursed with Mrs. Long until all patients were well. It was a serious time. There were several deaths. Mrs. McDowell's brother - Dr. McGregor - was the doctor.

Here my mother switched to news of relatives and did not refer to her life in Irma again. During the years that she lived in Irma she assisted at the birth of many of the new Albertans.

My sister, Marian, was born in 1922. She has followed in her mother's footsteps and is doing community nursing in Ottawa.

In 1936 I married Calvin Urquhart from Glengarry County, Ontario. We farmed in the Irma district for four years before moving to Ontario. Our eldest son, Ron, was born before we left Irma. He is a veterinarian with the Ontario Government. He lives in Toronto with wife, Diana, twin daughters and two sons. Neil, our youngest son, was born in Toronto. He lives in Barrie with his wife, Patricia, and two sons. He is vice-principal in a public school.

We have lived in Islington, a suburb of Toronto for thirty years. We are still both farmers at heart and love the rural way of life. Mr. Urquhart has since passed on. Since retiring we spend a good deal of time at Diana's parents' farm where we make maple syrup in the spring and have a large garden in the summer. Our family frequently spend weekends at the farm with us.



Calvin Urquhart, Mary Elliott and Cecil Sorginson - a nephew of Mrs. E.C. Elliott.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES THEODORE HILL

C.T. Hill was born in 1861 at Economy Corchester, County of Nova Scotia, where he spent his boyhood years, until moving to Boston, Mass. with his family. In 1890 he married Dorcus Almira McLellan, also a former Nova Scotia native. To this marriage was born a daughter, Anna Irene, and a son, Fred McLellan.

While in Boston, C.T. Hill ran a successful ice business, delivering ice throughout the city. Upon retiring, Mr. Hill found his way to Irma in 1907. He spent his first winter with Jim Donaghue. The following spring he returned to Boston for his family, and they arrived in the spring of 1908.

The Hill home in the early days was always a stopping place for neighbors going to and from Irma. They often enjoyed a meal with the family. At Christmas there was



Mr. and Mrs. C.T. Hill.

always a large table set for family and neighbors.

The Hills were active in community projects, the United Church, Strawberry Plains Literary Society, the U.F.A. and Agriculture Society.

It is said one year when Mr. Hill was weed inspector, he was found to be cultivating a stinkweed in his garden. They weren't so plentiful in those days. He destroyed it before it went to seed, so that isn't where we got all the stinkweed today.

In 1930 Mr. and Mrs. Hill moved to Irma and resided in the house where Harold Gulbraa now lives. When Mr. Hill died in February, 1933, his wife continued to live in the same house, providing a place for her grandchildren to stay during the week days and go to school in Irma. Mrs. Hill died in Edmonton on September 12th, 1939, while living with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. P.J. Hardy.



Joe Hardy, Irene Hardy, Eugene Carter, Mrs. C.T. Hill and Mr. C.T. Hill.

FRED McLELLAN HILL FAMILY

Fred Hill was born on August 3rd, 1893, at Somerville, Massachusetts, to Charles Theodore and Almira Hill. In 1908 he came to the Irma district with his family. Here he homesteaded and remained for the rest of his life.

On June 11th, 1919, Fred married Martha Irene Love, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Love, and together they raised a family of five daughters: Mildred Louise (Mrs. Clark Code), Almira Irene (Mrs. Al Dyck), Muriel Ralphina (Mrs. Ivor Thurston), Aletha Patricia (Mrs. Hugh Tomlinson), Marilyn Ann (Mrs. Cecil Lockhart), and three sons, Theodore Fredrick (Ted), Stanley Wilbert and John Paulvin.

At first the Hill children went to school in Irma, staying at their Gramma Hill's during the week, and going home for weekends. In 1938 they started going to Strawberry Plains school. At first they used the democrat in the summer and cutter in the winter, pulled by faithful old "Dolly". Later on they walked or rode horseback. On rainy days Fred took them in the car, and picked up



Fred Hill family taken about 1944. Back Row: Muriel, Stan, Aletha, Mina, Mildred and Ted. Front Row: Irene, John, Marilyn and Fred.

everybody along the way. One day he had five Hills, three Blakelys, two Bacons, one Chase, one Clay, Miss Rosine, and himself in the car.

Harvest was always a busy time with extra men, sometimes easterners, who came out on harvest excursions, and sometimes soldiers. In the depression years there were always men looking for harvest work. The hours were long for the men, and also for the cooks. Fred always threshed for himself and his neighbors. It was lots of hard work, but lots of fun too.

Fred was also very active in the community, continuing so even after his retirement from farming. For seventeen years he served on the Wainwright District School Board, including twelve years as chairman. Other interests included the U.G.G., Alberta Wheat Pool and the Irma United Church. For fifty years he was a member of the I.O.O.F. Lodge, serving in many offices, including Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta.

Fred died July 14th, 1974, at the age of eighty years. Irene lived for a while in their house in Irma. She then moved to the Chacutenah Manor, and is now living with her daughter, Muriel Thurston.

When they retired to Irma they moved the cottage school from Irma across the railroad track and made a very comfortable home. Robbie Jones lives there now. They then purchased a house from Wilf Symington in 1957 and lived there for several years.



Fred Hill's threshing outfit.

JOHN PAULVIN HILL FAMILY

The youngest of the eight children of Fred and Irene Hill, John, was born in 1937. He attended school at Strawberry Plains and Irma. In 1960 he graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in Geology and began teaching high school in Sedgewick. In 1964 he completed his B.Ed., and for the following years taught in Edmonton, Ponoka, and Darmouth, Nova Scotia.

In June of 1969, John married Beth Munroe in Sydney, Nova Scotia, and returned to Alberta to resume teaching Math and Physics in Ponoka.

John and Beth have two children, Sarah, born in 1971, and Peter, born in 1973. The family resides in Ponoka where John enjoys an active interest in curling and bicycling.

John returns to Irma often to visit his family and takes in summer ball games.

STANLEY WILBERT HILL FAMILY

Stan is the fifth child of Fred and Irene Hill. He was born October 9th, 1929. He received his education at Strawberry Plains school and at the Irma school. Then Stan joined the navy, and went in for an electrical engineer. He specialized in radar.

Stan retired from the navy. A navy friend and Stan then bought a grocery store, which they operated for several years. After selling the store, Stan went to work in the navy yards repairing the radar equipment.

Stan married May Fowley, and they have four children: Carol Anne (Mrs. Ron Smith), Susan Margaret (Mrs. Rick Howe), Philip Stanley, and Irene Louise.

Stan and May live in Victoria, B.C.

THEODORE FREDRICK HILL

Ted Hill and Doreen Boyd were married in 1953 and then resided on the Hill family farm southeast of Irma.

With Ted home to take over the farming operations, Irene and Fred Hill retired and made their home in Irma. But the Hill house was not to be quiet for long. In February, 1954, Ted and Doreen's first child, Donna Irene arrived on the scene. Donna was pleased to welcome sister Diane Louise in May, 1955. Their third daughter, Patricia Ann joined the family in December, 1958. Then in 1963 the three girls were pleased to welcome their baby brother, Bradley Theodore to the family.

All the children completed their schooling at the Irma High School, having also been active in various club and school organizations. Donna graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Education degree. She married Brian Riehl of Edmonton and they have two daughters, Kiley and Kristin. They make their home in the Half Moon Lake area.

Diane married Randy Johnson of Lougheed and they have three children, Brian, Reena and Melissa. The Johnson family farms north of Lougheed.

Patricia Ann (Patti) graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Education degree and taught at Wainwright High School before returning to University to earn a Master's Degree in Education of the Deaf.

Upon his high school graduation Bradley worked for a short time for Pacific Oilfield Equipment Ltd. before returning home to farm with his father.

Over the years Ted and Doreen have maintained their active interest in community and church organizations. With Brad home to help on the farm, Ted and Doreen are now able to find more time for travel and relaxation.



Diane, Donna, Doreen, Ted, Patti and Bradley Hill.

WILLIAM T. HILL

William T. (Bill) Hill was born at Pendelton, Ontario. He was employed by the C.P.R. at Vermont when he was transferred west to take over duties in Edmonton in April, 1912.

The same year he filed on a homestead in the Lewisville district S.W. 18-44-8. While improving the homestead he worked as a blacksmith at Wainwright Buffalo Park.

In 1918 he returned to Ontario for a visit. His two daughters Ada and Evelyn came to Alberta to make their

home with him. Ada, in time, married Sydney Johnston and farmed in the Strawberry Plains district until their retirement in Irma. Evelyn became the wife of Roy Reber of Hardisty. Both the Rebers passed away at an early age.

Bill remained farming the homestead until the time of his passing in 1950.

MRS. ESTHER HINECKER

(nee Esther May Gwinn)

Esther May Gwinn - born at Irma to Arthur and Bessie Gwinn. Attended Irma School 1938-1948. Married Floyd Hinecker, youngest son of Fred and Annie Hinecker of Mannville on August 1, 1950 in Edmonton, and they have resided there since. They were blessed with seven children, Coretta, Charlene, Coralee, Douglas, David, Donald and Dale.

As I think back over the years, I have many memories, some happy and some not so happy. It was lonely growing up as an only child - I was fifteen when my brother Wayne was born. I rode horseback, four miles to school - no school buses in those days. The first years, I recall the high school boys, mainly Lloyd Herbert, helping me on and off my horse, and making sure the saddle was tight before heading for home. Happy memories were those such as playing ball at school, and competing at Track Day events. I recall those lunch hours at school for us "country kids", Irma Webb making pan gravy when we tried hot lunches; locking Arthur Jackson in the coal bin, and Marjorie Guiltner and I getting the giggles in class; Winnie Thurston and her ringlets, ideal for dunking in the inkwells and Isobel Jackson my dearest of friends. How fortunate for Irma when Mr. Gunn came (and decided to stay) - "my favorite teacher".



Isabel Jackson and Esther Gwinn walking down 101 Street in Edmonton.

DWIGHT HINES

by Jack Hines

Dwight is five years my junior so he was only in grade three at the time we left Irma to live in north-eastern Alberta. He completed his high school in Bonnyville in 1960 and then left for Edmonton where he worked for a number of years. He married Dawn Parsons of Edmonton in 1963. They have three children, Todd twenty, Cory and Ray sixteen.

Dwight took an interest in carpentry work and began setting up and maintaining and servicing mobile homes in Alberta and British Columbia. In 1976 he was offered a job in Fort McMurray and moved his family there. He subsequently obtained a maintenance position with Syncrude Canada and while there obtained his Carpenter's Certificate through Keyano College in Fort McMurray.

Today Dwight and Dawn reside at 184 Torrie Bay in Fort McMurray. Just for the record, Cory and Ray are not twins. Cory was born in 1968 and Ray was adopted two years later.

JACK HINES

by Jack Hines

I completed my grade nine at Irma Junior High in 1952. My mother passed away in November of 1951. My brother Dwight and I stayed with Martin and Esther Creasy that year and it was my first full year's introduction to farming. It was an invaluable experience for I learned to work hard and have ever since.



Lil and Jack Hines, Tim, John, and Corinne.

I completed high school at Glendon and Fort Kent in north-eastern Alberta. After graduation I moved to Edmonton and commenced working for a living. I met and married Lily Betchuk of Bon Accord. This little school teacher and I have three children, John now twenty-three, Tim twenty-two and Corinne nineteen. Lil and I celebrated our twenty-fifth December 20/83.

After surviving in the work force for a few years, I decided to study accounting and obtained my R.I.A. in 1970. I was general manager of a plating company in Edmonton for a number of years and then moved to Calgary in 1973 to become Chief Financial Officer of a company providing cable television service to residents of south Calgary. This spring I took a position with Shaw Cable Systems Ltd. of Edmonton as Assistant Vice-President.

Lil and I now reside at 1092 Parker Place in Sherwood Park. Our eldest son is in Calgary and the other two are attending university in Edmonton and Ottawa.

JOHN HINES FAMILY

John Hines was born in Harvey, North Dakota in 1900 and came to Hardisty in 1905 with his parents, moving to Czar in 1929.

Astrid Peterson was born in Sweden in 1908 and came with her family to Hughenden in 1911. There she spent



John and Astrid Hines with son Jack.

her girlhood and received her education.

John and Astrid were married in 1930 and to this union were born two sons, Jackie and Dwight. In 1935 they moved to Irma where he worked for some time for the W. Rawleigh Company. He became well known and made many friends. John eventually went into the trucking business. He bought scrap metal throughout the area and sold it in Edmonton. He also trucked grain and other commodities. Johnny was killed in 1949 as a result of an accident at Berwyn when he was working on a truck tire and it exploded.

Astrid curled with the ladies. She and her two boys remained in Irma until ill health compelled her to go to Wainwright hospital where she passed away. The boys made their home with the Martin Creasy family and later with relatives.

WILLIAM G. HIPPERSON

OBITUARY:

Following a lengthy illness, William George Hiperson, fifty-four of Hanna, died in a Calgary Hospital September 17th. He was born in Norwich, Norfolk, England, and came to Irma in 1912, where he took up a homestead and resided until 1933.

During this time he carried on the business of a livestock buyer. In 1933 he moved to Hanna, where he was also a livestock buyer.

Upon moving to Calgary in 1942, he was a buyer for the Union Packing Co. until his death. He was a member of the Canadian Legion at Hanna.



Steve and Jennie Hlynka in 1978.

THE HLYNKA FAMILY

(Steve, Jennie, Olga and John)

Steve and Jennie were both born in the Ukraine and moved independently to Alberta in the early 1930's. Steve first settled in the Westlock district, where he worked as a farmhand for two to three years before moving to Irma in 1933, where he would become the local shoemaker for the next twenty years. In 1935 Steve married Jennie Kuzyk of Vegreville, and the couple established their home in Irma where they raised their children - Olga and John. Steve was to become very active over the years in the School Board, the Board of Trade - and in the participation and



John Hlynka family in 1983. Jeff, Barry, Bob, Sheila, Carol, John.

promotion of the roaring game of curling! Jennie's outside interests primarily related to helping out with the Women's Institute's many activities, and to making and serving pies in the Curling Club Kitchen! Olga was very active in the C.G.I.T. program, and John could usually be found either on his newspaper route or at the hockey rink.



Weis family - Olga (Jean) and Lloyd, Joanne and Rodney.

In 1953 the Hlynka family moved to Leduc so that the children might have better access to the University of Alberta. Each took advantage of this move, with Olga pursuing the teaching profession and attaining the position of Assistant Principal in Calgary, before retiring to raise a family. She married Lloyd Weis of Calgary and

the couple, with their children, Rodney and Joanne, still live in the foothills city. John completed his undergraduate work in Pharmacy before proceeding to obtaining his Ph.D. degree. He married Sheila Bateman of Edmonton and, with their children, Barry, Bob, Jeff and Carol, now reside in Tsawwassen, B.C. John presently serves as Professor and Associate Dean of Pharmacy at the University of British Columbia.

After a brief move to Edmonton, Steve and Jennie retired to Ladner, B.C. in 1970. From there they moved to Vernon, B.C. in 1974 where they spent their last years busy keeping track of their children's and grandchildren's progress to the east and to the west of them. Steve passed away in 1979 and Jennie in 1983. While they were residents of several cities and homes over the years, it became clear to one and all who would visit them that their fondest memories of friends, family and living would always focus on those years in Irma.

THE HOCKETT FAMILIES

by Donna-Faye (Hockett) Brown

Charles Wilbur Hockett was born August 25, 1891, the only boy in a family with six girls. His father, "Buddy" Hockett, was an American whose people were hosteliars and businessmen. His mother, Iceola (Spielman) Hockett, who had walked behind her father's covered wagon from Pennsylvania to Oregon when she was a young girl, was a tall and very dignified lady, with great strength of character. She was also an expert and well-practised horsewoman. This skill, and a life-long love of horses was passed on to her son.

Charlie, the youngest of the family, was in his teens when he came with his parents to homestead in the Castor area of Alberta. He was an expert with horses, whether breaking them, riding range or running bucking strings for rodeos. Upon occasion he was a competitor at these events, and in 1912 rode in the Calgary Stampede. He handled each horse with quiet determination - his advice was "never raise your voice to the horse and never let the animal get the best of you."

On June 15, 1909 he married Mary Delores Richardt, also an American by birth. Mary, born March 22, 1889, was a lady of strict upbringing, and held temperate but very firm values. While a child she travelled throughout the midwest and southern United States with her family. As a young girl she lived only a few miles from where the infamous Jesse James and his gang carried out many of their daring robberies. Self-discipline was the first principle of her life. She always maintained that no lady should be seen in the streets without proper dress and a hat upon her head. To her last days she adhered to this propriety.

This couple, Mary and Charlie Hockett, were typical of many of the pioneer homesteaders who came to a land of open prairies and gently rolling hills. Their own perseverance and patient industry enabled them to survive many rigors - the devastating prairie fire, the sandstorms characteristic of the Castor area and the death dealing whiteness of prairie blizzards.

They raised a family of six children, three boys - Arthur, Louis and Glen, and three girls - Edna, Ilene and

Ella. The same quiet firmness which secured good results with his horses, was the rule for disciplining ram-bunctious youngsters. Misbehaviour required that they literally "toe the line" of the flooring in the kitchen, under his watchful and unrelenting eye.

Times were difficult, and about 1932, the family moved to a farm in the Silver Lane district south of Irma. When this operation was no longer viable Charlie worked as a hired man for farmers and ranchers in the area. Notable among these was Art Long, a rancher and horseman in the Strawberry Plains district. Eventually Charlie and Mary acquired a little house in the village of Irma. Shortly after the war broke out in 1939, Charlie, a healthy, tough specimen, used to long hours in the sun, decided to "clip a few years from his age." He managed to join the army, serving in the quartermaster's store in Calgary. His three sons all volunteered to serve their country, and went overseas on active duty. V-E day and then V-J day, finally came, with the end of the war - discharge. Charlie was back in Irma, and another ranch job - this time for Joe Mac Holt at his ranch northwest of Irma. This position proved to be permanent. Each year when Joe Mac and his wife Gladys travelled to Arizona for the winter the Hocketts, Charlie and Mary were foreman and house mother respectively. After the ranch was sold the Hocketts moved to Edmonton, and then to Cooking Lake, where their cottage door was always open to all, and most especially to their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Charlie and Mary Hockett.

Material things had never been of great importance to them - theirs was a wealth of the spirit and a love that encompassed each one in their huge family circle. Twice in their lifetime they enjoyed the distinct pleasure of being one link in a five generation line. The first of these five generation spans included Great-great-grandma Iceola Hockett, Granddad Charlie Hockett; all six of his children and their offspring, and their families. The second five generation span became a reality a few short years after Great-great-grandmother Iceola was laid to rest. Charlie and Mary were now the great-great-grandparents, as each year or so one of their great-grandchildren became a parent. The first of these great-

great-grandchildren was born in 1974, the year that Charlie and Mary celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary. His name - Samuel Hodgkinson, son of Dennis Hodgkinson - oldest son of Bernice-Anne (Hockett) Hodgkinson - fourth daughter of Arthur Hockett - the oldest son of Charlie and Mary. Others followed over the years.

When infirmity made it impossible to keep up a yard and the required maintenance of their own home, Charlie and Mary moved to Pioneer Court - senior citizens apartment at Sherwood Park. They remained there, taking part in the various activities with their friends and peers. Charlie loved to play card games and was tough opposition, for he had the gift of an excellent memory and seldom lost track of what had been played. The two celebrated their sixty-eighth wedding anniversary in June of 1977. However, the years were beginning to take their toll and on October 13, 1977, after a brief illness, Grandad Charlie died. He was buried on October 15, in the Castor cemetery. Grandma Mary stayed on, for a brief while at Pioneer Court, surrounded by her greatest treasures - her pictures and little gifts from her family. Loneliness and the hazards of living alone after sixty-eight years of marriage, finally compelled her to move to Vernon to live with her daughter Edna. She missed Alberta, and passed away on October 17, 1980, three years after Charlie's death. She is buried at Castor cemetery - under the pine trees, beside Grandad.

Both Charlie and Mary retained, to the end, their mutual alertness and enjoyment of life and incidents around them. Although Charlie imbibed quite frequently all those years, he did not indulge while working, and had great physical endurance. Mary always conducted her affairs with prudence and ordered attention to detail. Thus their lives were lived - with quiet dignity and a fierce pride in their own independence. This heritage is a mark of their families and it can be recognized in the piercing gaze with which life and its events are contemplated, in the firm, upright stride and a certain set of the chin, as each generation carries on the tradition in its own span of years. Their family consisted of: Edna - married Chuck Anderson, and lived at Amisk where their family of seven grew up - Beverly, Ronn, Verna, David, the twins Linda and Laine, and Jeannie. After Chuck's untimely death, Edna married William Buxton - and eventually moved to Vernon where she still resides. Ella - married Stan Gultner and raised a large family. They live at the west coast. Ilene married Bud Green, now widowed she still lives in Vancouver. She has one daughter Patricia. Louis married Bea Hildreth from the Castor area. They have two sons, Buddy and Gordon, and have for many years lived at Quesnel, B.C. Glen married Adelene Larson (one of Alf Larson's daughters) and then went overseas, where at nineteen years of age he was severely wounded while landing on the beach in France. After the war (like many others lucky enough to come home) he began his married life. Glen and Adelene raised a lively family of five at Irma - Dennis, Darlene, Brent, Mavis and Glenda Beth. Glen and Adelene now live on their farm at Brownvale in the Peace River area. The family are all married, the youngest Glenda in the summer of 1984. Arthur was born on April 27, 1910 and succumbed to a brain tumor on



Edna, Glen and Ilene.

May 26, 1974. He, his wife Ferne (Coffin), and two girls Betty-Lou and Donna-Faye, moved from Youngstown to Irma in the summer of 1932. Five more children - Darrell, Lorna-Jean, Bernice-Anne, Lorraine and Gail, all born during the 1930's, completed the family. Money was scarce, and when the war came Arthur joined the army. He took his basic training at Camrose, and went overseas as an instructor in hand to hand combat. He did not return to Irma after the war but lived in Calgary and Bassano until his death. He is buried in Foothills Cemetery in Calgary. Ferne remained in Irma and went to work with Mrs. Hewitt in the 'phone office', then on to Viking for a brief time, before moving to Edmonton. For eighteen years she worked at the University Hospital switchboard. After retirement she lived in Edmonton but now resides with Lorraine at Sherwood Park. If patience and acceptance of the duties of one's station in life makes a human great, then Mother is, assuredly, a great lady. Her family were all good students and in competition were the bane of their classmates for many years. She has thirty-seven grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and although Arthur did not play a major part in his immediate family, his children were a constant and happy part of both the Hockett and Coffin clans. Today Betty-Lou and Darrell live in Edmonton, Lorna-Jean in Calgary, Bernice-Anne in Winnipeg, Lorraine at Sherwood Park, Gail at Fort Nelson, B.C., and Donna-



Betty-Lou, Donna-Faye, Darrel, Lorna-Jean, Bernice Ann, Lorraine and Gail.

Faye at Pibroch. All the girls except Betty-Lou have large families, and grandchildren abound. Darrell married Marjorie Stiles of Viking. They have two daughters, Esther Mary and Shelley, and one son Michael, and two grandchildren.

DONALD ALBERT HOLLAR

by Eva Hollar

Donald Albert Hollar was born at Kinsella, Alberta, September 25th, 1911. He lived on a farm north of Jarrow, Alberta, with his parents, Ollie and Mary Hollar until 1932 when he married Eva Mary Jackson and moved to his own farm. From this marriage one son was born, Ivan Donald on April 18th, 1933 at Viking Hospital. Ivan's mother, Eva was also born in Viking February 11th, 1910.

Don had a truck and hauled cream from the farmers to Kinsella creamery twice a week.

In 1939 the Hollars moved to another farm north of Kinsella. A few days after we arrived, Ivan knelt on a rusty nail which developed an injury to his leg. He was in the Royal Alex Hospital for eight months. It was a long way for us to go to see Ivan. In those days of "the thirties" there were no paved roads and it was an all day trip.

Don's sister, Florence, her husband and family from Washington, D.C. came to Canada to visit all the Hollar families in 1939. Don heard them coming on the road and said "that man is having trouble driving in the mud" - they were not used to driving in mud in the U.S.A. We had a nice garden, lettuce for lunch to take to Camp Lake for an outing while Don's sister was visiting us. By the middle of August the lettuce and everything was all dried up, crop also. It was an awfully dry August.

Don bought "Viking Service" so in 1945 we left the farm and moved to Viking to operate the garage. Ivan, having his last ride on a horse the day before we left the farm, fell off and broke his arm.

The next spring the Joe Williams family came from Edmonton, where they moved from their farm north of Kinsella. They had dinner with us and a "chit chat" of the old days on the farm. Jack and Juanita enjoyed visiting with Ivan. They took a picture of the three of us for a remembrance of us.

Don and I enjoyed going back to Saturday night dances at Kinsella and Rodino dances to visit with our old friends.

In 1957 we celebrated our twenty-fifth anniversary with a surprise party at the home of my brother, Jim Jackson in Viking. We enjoyed this with our friends.

We built a new home in 1959 and due to Don's ill health, in 1960 we sold the garage, moved in to our new house and carried on business on a lighter scale. Don dealt in scrap iron until 1970 when Ivan had an accident that took our time and care.

Don still found time to build Ivan a "walk off table" for therapy. He also restored a 1914 Ford Model T car back like it was in the old days.

Don enjoyed talking and visiting with his neighbors and friends. Don and Ivan have passed away. I still reside in Viking.

GLEN HOLLAR

by Melda Hollar

Glen, better known as "Pete", was born at home on the Edmond's farm on February 7, 1916. He was the sixth child of Ollie and Mary Hollar of Kinsella and had four sisters and seven brothers. Glen took his schooling at Echo and lived and worked in the district all his life.

I, Melda Jackson married Glen in 1946, and we lived on a small farm owned by Andy Hammer and previously owned by Milton Crouse. Later we built a house on SW 4-48-10 where Grannie Hollar's parents had lived for a time. Claude Hollar lived on the southeast quarter and the Beckett family lived on the northeast quarter. We milked cows, raised a few chickens and weaner pigs. For transportation we used saddle horses so didn't go far from home. The cream truck from Viking picked up our cream twice a week and delivered groceries. As we were on a mail route there was not much need to go to town.

Every Sunday through the summer there were community ball games played by young and old. We enjoyed dances at Rodino year-around, and in summer had picnics and stampedes which were well attended.

On July 23, 1953 we had some hot weather. Our uncle visiting from British Columbia said we could expect a hailstorm. I well remember watching the storm come up fast. Around four-thirty in the afternoon we saw a funnel-shaped cloud rolling along the ground. We had just started milking when the storm hit. The wind took the pails from us, but we managed to get to the small milk house for shelter. It is hard to describe the four or five terrifying minutes it took for the storm to pass over. The old barn was still standing. Never even moved the straw. But the house was blown to pieces, two walls were blown over the hill, into a hollow. The rest of the evening was beautiful. We kept our car in the trees by the house as we didn't have a garage. We had to move some parts of walls from the remains of our house and under one large wall was our old coal-oil lamp and glass without a scratch on either. We moved a few more pieces to get the car free, and as we were driving over the hill there was our alarm clock ticking away so we knew what time it was. Later when we were haying the men found pickles in the hayfield as well as our curtains.

We stayed with Jack and Edna Campbell until we bought a house from Bud Hanson of Viking. Northwestern Utilities Ltd. moved it for us.

In January 1954 our son Lark was born followed by Randy, Dixie and Layle. They first went to Albert School and then on to Irma. Glen lost his life in September 1969 from a heart attack which was a bad shock to his family and friends.

Lark left school to work on construction in Edmonton. He married in 1971 and had a daughter, Susan, in 1972. He remarried in 1978 and has four children: Glen, Jody, Cody and Kelly. They live at Sundre where Lark works at construction.

Randy went to Calgary where he worked on ranches and did a bit of bull riding and singing. He married Ellen Olsen of Viking and they have two children, Jason and Colleen. They live near Camrose where he enjoys horses and is employed with Concord Construction.



Layle, Lark, Glenn, Melda, Randy and Dixie Hollar.

Dixie graduated from Viking school in 1974 and worked for a construction company. In 1975 she married Geoff Fuder and they have four children (Glennnda, Vance, Randi-Diane, Lacey). They have recently moved into Irma.

Layle finished Viking high school in 1978. She was employed in the oil field until she married Clarence Thompson of Sedgewick. They have a son, Matthew Glen, and are expecting in November. Clarence is employed at Sedgewick.

I spend most of my time with my grandchildren and really enjoy them.

NORMAN HOLLAR FAMILY

I was born on October 16, 1917 and grew up on the homestead S.E. 34-47-10-W4 with my parents, seven brothers and four sisters, namely: Don, Jim, Ollie (Pat), Glenn (Pete), Claude (Docc), Robert (Tuddy), Ernest (Bub), Florence, Nora (Tip, my twin sister), Ethel, and Cora Lee.

At the age of six years I started school at Echo School which was about one and a quarter miles to walk. Some of my teachers were Miss Kindall, Miss Abbot, Miss Hanson and Lloyd Cameron. We used to get a poplar stick and pretend it was our horse. We seemed to be able to go faster, and thus get to school faster that way.

My dad and mother cared for my dad's brother, Jack, and two sisters, Anne and Rosebud, for quite a number of years. Jack passed away in October of 1972. Anne lives at Sundre, Alberta and Rosebud passed away September of 1962. Anne is now Mrs. Andrew Adams.

In June of 1953 I was united in marriage to Mildred Whitney who lived at Burtonsville, Alberta (west of Edmonton). We have five children: Darlene is married and has three boys; Brian, Kevin and Dennis. Duane who works for Northwestern Utilities and lives in Irma. Lorne works in partnership as a mechanic in the former Lefsrud Garage, and also lives in Viking. Doyle lives in Viking and works with the oil company which has its office in Irma. Lorraine makes her home in Viking with Darlene and works part time at the Viking Burger Queen.

My parents, three brothers and one sister have passed away: Don, September 8, 1981, Ollie (Pat), June 19, 1954, Glenn (Pete), September 12, 1969, Florence, March of 1979, my Father, April 23, 1973, and my Mother,



Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hollar's 25th anniversary. Lorraine, Doyle, Lorne, Duane and Darlene.

December 18, 1967.

I am now living on the former Bob Landers homestead and I'm still farming and will be for a while yet.

OLLIE AND MARY HOLLAR AND FAMILY

by Myrna Mackey

On April 1st, 1905, Ollie Hollar arrived in what is now known as the Echo district, north of Kinsella. He and a friend, Dave Barker staked homesteads - Dave, the N.W. 28-47-10-W4th and Ollie the S.W. 34-47-10-W4th. Ollie returned to North Dakota that fall and was married to Mary Louise Hopper on January 30th, 1906 at Minot, North Dakota. He returned to his homestead with his bride in the spring of 1906. They were the third couple to settle in the district.

Ollie Russell Hollar was born on October 21st, 1884 at Harrisburg, Virginia, the son of O.J. (Ollie Jacob) Hollar and Cora Lee (Zirkle) Hollar.

Mary Louise (Hopper) Hollar was born at Pickering, Ontario on January 29th, 1888. As a young girl her family moved to North Dakota where she remained until her marriage. She was the daughter of Richard Hopper and Martha Louise (Lock) Hopper.

They were married almost sixty-two years, until Mary's death on December 18th, 1967 at Vialta Lodge in Viking where they had made their home since the fall of 1964. During their nearly sixty years on the farm, they raised a family of twelve children.

The children of the family were: Florence born January 9th, 1907; Jim born November 8th, 1909; Pat (Ollie Richard) March 27th, 1910; Don born September 25th, 1911; Ethel born September 7th, 1913; Glenn born February 7th, 1916; twins Nora and Norman born October 16th, 1917; Claude born October 6th, 1919; Cora born March 24th, 1921; Robert born October 6th, 1923 and Ernest born October 6th, 1927.

Other members of Ollie's family made their homes in the district as well. They were his parents Mr. and Mrs. O.J. Hollar, Alex Hollar, Charles Hollar, Jack Hollar,

and sisters Anna (later Mrs. Leslie Pyke), Rosebud (later Mrs. Mike Malato) and Sally (Mrs. Jack Anderson).

Ollie was chairman of the first Board of Trustees of the Echo School built in 1909 on the S.E. 32-47-10-W4th. He also had the dubious honour of collecting an eight dollar school tax from each land owner for the period of two years previous. He was not only one of the founders but remained on the board throughout the entire operation of the school. His sisters, Anna and Rosebud were among the first pupils in the Echo School and his grandsons Texas and Lawrence were in the final class in 1955. Most of his sons farmed in the district for a time and three of them, Norman, Claude and Robert and grandson Brent, still do.

Horses brought Ollie to Alberta in the early 1900's as he was one of the men who drove large herds of horses up from the States to be sold to prairie settlers. They remained an important part of his life. At times his herds numbered in the hundreds and he, together with sons and grandsons, drove or shipped them to stampedes like Calgary, Bruce and Clover Lodge to mention a few.

A visit with Mary and Ollie (Granny and Grandad) to many, was always rewarded with plenty of good old fashioned hospitality and many a story Grandad could tell.

Ollie passed away in Viking on April 23rd, 1973. His direct descendents at that time numbered over one hundred. Other members of his family who have passed on are: Pat, June 19th, 1954; Glenn, September 12th, 1969; Florence, March, 1979 and Don on September 8th, 1981.



Back Row: Don, Pat, Glenn, Robert, Ernest, Claude, Norman. Front Row: Nora, Cora, Mary and Ollie Hollar, Ethel and Florence.

TO MR. AND MRS. HOLLAR

By MRS. A. BECKETT, Kinsella

Here are two grand old people
We're wishing well tonight
For they are going 'way back home.
And we think their trip's just right
For many, many years ago.
In 1906, to be exact,
They wooed and wed and came out west,
Ambition plenty they had no lack.

As bride and groom they settled on
A homestead on thirty-four',
No trees to shade them from the sun,
Wild flowers abundant 'round the door.
Now things were pretty tough awhile,
The trading post and royal mail
Were thirty miles away,
And just an open, wind-swept trail.

But when things seemed to be the worst,
The stork brought forth a baby girl,
And now their home was full of love
When came a son, a mass of curls;
Florence and Jim, a lovely pair
Filled their hearts with pride and joy.
But, then the bird arrived again—
Another boy . . . and soon another boy!

Pat and Don, as we all know,
Were full of fun and up to tricks;
They'd done a lot of awful things.
But what boy don't get in a fix?
As the years sped swiftly by,
A girl named Ethel, a boy called Pete,
Slipped into the family
To make it complete.

And, then one time they got surprised,
The stork arrived with a set of twins,
And followed them, a boy . . . a girl,
Claude and Cora, with dimpled chins;
Then two boys brought up the end
Of twelve young ones they were so proud—
Four lovely girls—eight husky boys;
Their laughter rang out clear and loud.

Through the times of toil and strife
Their home thrice burned right to the ground.
Winters cold and summers hot,
But still enough they always found
To feed and clothe
Their youngsters gay.
A happy home was theirs to own,
They did not care to go astray.

It seems the times have changed a bit,
The family all have grown;
Just now, the baby went and wed.
He, too, has fligged and flown.
The county grew—the brush has come,
Old-timers mostly gone;
He counts some twenty homesteads
Gone—like the setting sun.

We all agree, life's been a task.
The good, the bad, the in-between;
But these brave folks have stuck it out.
Through many a storm they've been.
The old gent likes to have folks come
To visit and to chat,
To tell our children many a tale;
At yarns, he's sure a bat.

And Ma . . . she's been a dear old gal,
She's raised the children well,
She milked the cows and did the chores
'Til now . . . She's done it swell.
She's plowed the fields and made the hay
Right by her lover's side.
It's time she quit and had a rest,
Her duties are inside.

Tonight we've tried to entertain
A couple good and true,
We hope they have the grandest trip
And see old sights anew—
They've bound to have forgotten
Many a childhood treasure.
So God be with them on their way
To make their trip a pleasure.

Fiftieth Anniversary Poem.

GORDON AND MARINA HOLLINGER

by Marina Hollinger

Gordon was born in April, 1933 to Ludvig and Dicka Hollinger and was their only child. He attended school at Melbrae for seven years and finished his public school at Coal Springs when Melbrae was closed. He received his high school education at Camrose Lutheran College. It was a common sight to see Gordon riding his Shetland pony, Buster, to and from school. He had three and one half miles one way to school.

As a young boy, Gordon would ride his tricycle down to Uncle Peder and Aunt Nan's farm to watch them milk cows. Uncle Norman and Uncle Peder often worked their farmland together and when they were working across from the Hollinger's, Gordon would take lunch to them, in the baby buggy, with his pet dog, Gyp at his side. Gordon always made sure Gyp got a half cup of coffee as the dog loved coffee. (He must have been Norwegian, too). Gordon was often repaid by his uncles for his errand, with a new pair of shoes.

When Gordon started working, you could find him painting, floor sanding or trucking in the Irma area. He moved to Edmonton where he was employed by Sunburst Bus Lines as a bus driver. Later he became partsman for Nordheimer Farm Equipment.



Douglas, Marina, Gordon, Curtis and Dwayne.

In 1963, Gordon returned to the family farm to join his dad in the farming operations. Gordon owned one quarter of land and rented a half section.

In 1966, he married Marina Thompson, of Claresholm, Alberta. Marina was born and raised in Claresholm, one of six children. She received her schooling in Claresholm and graduated from that high school. She took a business course at Henderson Secretarial School in Calgary. She was employed as a secretary with the R.C.A.F. base at Claresholm and later with the Oil and Gas Conservation Board in Calgary. After leaving Calgary she moved to Saskatoon and worked for Rev. Curtis Satre in the Canadian Missions Division of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

I will never forget the day that we arrived home from our honeymoon. It was a sultry day with the threat of hail in the air. That Sunday evening we watched our only crop go down. Believe me, I wondered what was going to happen to us with no crop to harvest - where was our income coming from? Not being from the farm and

raised in a home that had a monthly cheque providing for us, I couldn't imagine how we were going to survive. That day I was not impressed with farm life!! Today I wouldn't want to live any place else!

We have three boys in our family. Douglas Ludvig was born in 1967 (our Centennial project) and was warmly welcomed. Dwayne Allen was born in 1969 and was a playmate for his big brother. Curtis Darren arrived in 1973 and has added life to our family. The boys are presently attending the Irma School.

In 1981 we began remodelling and adding on to the house that Gordon's folks lived in. We moved into our present home in the spring of 1982.

LUDVIG AND DICKA HOLLINGER

Ludvig Hollinger was born in Molde, Norway to Elias and Beret Hollingen, one of eight children. While at home he worked on the family farm, as well as working as a deckhand on a ship. He enjoyed fishing and husbandry, which proved beneficial to him in later years.

Ludvig emigrated to Canada in 1926 at the age of twenty-two. Upon his arrival at Irma he worked for Oskar Steffenson. He worked on the big lakes in the north country and was also employed by the CN yards and the Black Diamond Coal Mines located under the MacDonald Hotel in Edmonton.

In December, 1931, Ludvig married Petrikka (Dicka) Fluevog. Dicka immigrated to Canada with her parents, Nikolai and Gina Fluevog, brother Norman and sister, Nanna in 1910. They came to the "Cap" Larson farm to start their new life. In 1911 they moved south of town to their new home, presently occupied by Norman and Irene Fluevog.

Dicka attended Melbrae School and also Camrose Lutheran College. She served many a weary traveller a tasty meal from the Shaw Hotel in Irma where she was employed as a cook, along with her close friend Palma (Berg) Masson. This trade made her home a special place to many friends who have enjoyed Dicka's donuts and coffee or a tasty meal.



Ludvig, Gordon, Dicka Hollinger.



Hollinger farm before renovations to house in 1982.

Ludvig and Dicka set up their first home on S.E. 2-45-10. While residing here, their son Gordon was born. He was born in 1933 in the old Wainwright Hospital and delivered by Dr. Greenburg. In 1935 the family moved to S.E. 35-44-10 and Ludvig and Dicka spent the remainder of their lives here. In 1952, Ludvig built a new home on this location.

They milked several cows and raised chickens, turkeys and pigs. Dad planted all the trees that stand on our farm today which attests to his love of the land and the use of the husbandry mentioned earlier.

Dad told of the times he borrowed enough money to buy seed grain and when the crop was harvested he made only enough to pay for the seed. He recalled how he didn't have enough money to pay the postage for a letter to his parents in Norway, which was 3¢, I believe.

Ludvig served on the School Board of Melbrae School, he was a director on the Irma Co-op Board for several years and served on various other boards. He and Dicka were very active in Sharon Lutheran Church, Ludvig serving on boards within the church and Dicka serving on the Ladies Aid executive as well as doing handiwork.

Ludvig and Dicka lived their lives on the family farm until their passing in July of 1975 and January of 1980, respectively.

CLIFTON HOLT FAMILY

by Clifton Holt

Charles Clifton Holt was born September 13th, 1932, the third son of Joseph McBride and Gladys Valera Holt. He grew up on the Bar Heart Ranch and took his schooling at Batt school through to grade nine. In 1948 he moved with his parents to Edmonton, where he attended Garneau High School. He then went to Vermilion School of Agriculture in 1952-53 and 1953-54, and during that time also helped his two older brothers, who were farming in the Irma area. After college, Clifton started farming the Viggo Lindberg farm which his dad had purchased. In the fall of 1958 Clifton and his dad moved the Lindberg house one mile north of its former site to the present farm-site, closer to the power, gas and a good road.



Back Row: Paralee MacKay, Robert. Front Row: Larkin, Clifton, Betty, Jaye.

On April 4th, 1959, Clifton married Betty Anne Armitage.

Betty was born August 30th, 1936 in Wainwright, the first daughter of Bert and Mary Armitage, who at that time lived south of Irma. In 1942 the Armitages moved up to Kinsella area. Betty attended school at Batts and Kinsella. After high school in Kinsella she helped her mother on the farm, six miles northeast of town. Later, she attended McTavish Business College in Edmonton, and then was employed at the Bank of Montreal in Wainwright and Irma. While working in Irma, Betty boarded with Mrs. Lena Nilson.

Clifton and Betty had four children: Paralee Anne, born March 5th, 1960, Charles Jaye, born June 4th, 1962, Larkin Joseph, born February 27th, 1964 and Robert Clifton, born June 24th, 1967.

The children all attended Irma School. After graduating from high school, Paralee attended Lakeland College in Vermilion, where she received a certificate in Business Administration. On November 10th, 1979, Paralee married Mervin John MacKay, and they now live south of Irma, where Mervin is farming and in the dairy business with his dad. They live on the Alex Smallwood farm.

Paralee and Mervin have a son, Darryl John, born March 11th, 1983 - a first grandchild for Clifton and Betty, Jack and Irene MacKay, and a first great-grandchild for Bert and Mary Armitage.

Jaye graduated from high school in 1980 and is helping his dad on the farm. He enjoys playing ball in the summer and hockey in the winter.

Larkin graduated from high school in 1982 and is presently helping at home. He plays ball in the summer and has been with the Wainwright Jr. B. Bisons for the third season now. The Bisons were league Champions 1981-82 and 1982-83.

Robert is taking his grade eleven in Irma school. He enjoys hockey with the Midget team this year. He played ball with the Pee Wees in 1980 when the team won the

Provincial B. Championships, played in Calgary in 1981 when they won silver at the Provincial A. level.

In 1982 he played Bantam softball losing out in Provincials but Irma hosted the Western Canada A. finals. They won all games in round robin then the finals were rained out! In 1983 the Bantams won a silver medal in Provincial A. level hosted at Irma.

Robert enjoys hunting, fishing and outdoors. He raised one hundred pheasants through the Irma Fish and Game Association this summer. They were all released in various locations in the area at the end of August and beginning of September. The Fish and Game plan of doing this for four more years, hoping to get pheasants established in the Irma area.

When Clifton started farming, his main income was in the cattle feeding business, having a feedlot on the farm, but during the later years has graduated mainly to straight grain farming with continuous cropping as the goal. Some of the land Clifton farms was formerly owned by Viggo Lindberg, T.A. Lindberg, Miller, P.J. Harvey, Cy Kennedy, Wilbert Myers and J.M. Holt. The farmstead is on the N.E. 34-46-10-W4th.



A good view of Holt Colony.

HOLT COLONY

by Marguerite Burr

In 1948 Joe Mac Holt sold the Bar Heart Ranch consisting of ten sections of land to the Hutterian Brethren from Granum, Alberta. This constituted a vast change in the Batt district. All the quarter section, homestead farms known to the early settlers that were incorporated into the Holt ranch changed hands, probably for the last time.

During the winter of 1949 a skeleton crew lived at the ranch to look after the livestock and to prepare for the coming of the rest of the colony when facilities permitted.

As soon as the crop was in, building activities became the priority. Living quarters, a communal eating area, kitchen, laundry etc. had to be built. Most of the Holt buildings were not suitable for the Hutterites' purpose. The Graham house was moved in and renovated for a laundry, but has since been replaced. The Lynx school is their present school with alterations and the addition of washrooms. The Bill Theroux house was moved to be



Eli Tschetter, one of the original members of the colony taken in the first kitchen. Eli passed away in September, 1970. Holt Colony.

used as a kindergarten and is still in use today.

Over the years the Hutterites have built up a very modern farm. They built new dairy barns in which they milk around forty cows, new modern chicken barns housing two thousand laying hens, and an up-to-date and well equipped shop. As well a modern hog barn where they farrow one hundred sows and finish the offspring, has been built in the last few years. They keep a beef herd of around four hundred cows and finish out the calves in a highly efficient feed lot. In addition, the colony raises around five hundred geese, one thousand ducks, eight hundred turkeys as well as broiler chickens for Alberta markets. Every summer a huge garden including fifteen acres of potatoes supply the surrounding towns with fresh produce.

During the winter, members of the colony repair machinery, make and finish beautiful furniture and sew their clothes needed for the year. The colony keeps bees to provide their needed supply of honey as well as some to sell.

When the Hutterites first came to the Irma area there were two families - the Tschetters and Hofers. Since coming in 1949 the colony has split three times - Mixburn Colony, Fort St. John Colony, and most recently twenty-seven members form the Moose Jaw Colony. At present there are around eighty people living in the Holt Colony and all of them are Tschetters.

About ten years ago they installed water and sewer which made things easier.

The first teacher at the colony was Mrs. Jack Lehr. The teacher of longest duration was Emma Mark who taught for ten years. Some other teachers were Mr. Guthrie, Charlie Allen, Mrs. Orril Darling, Tom Redd, Miss Patricia Graae and at present Betty Lawson is the teacher. In 1957 they bought the Stockton house from Earl Burr to make into a teacherage.

Some of the homestead quarters in the Hutterite Colony are Graham, Lister, Moore, Alhf, Paulson, Wilson, Smith, Bridgeman, Loring, Parriet, Armitage, Printup, Ambler, Murray, Marbury and Wm. Theroux quarters.

The Hutterites make good neighbors and are hospitable to visitors.



Marvin and Evelyn Tschetter (grandchildren of Mary and Eli).



Hutterite School Children. Teacher - Tom Redd, 1982.

GERTRUDE MABEL HOLT (NEE MAGRATH)

by Dorcas Coffin

Mabel Holt was born at Carstairs on September 20th, 1903. As her father was a section man she lived in various towns in Alberta and Manitoba until her mother passed away at Rosebank, Manitoba, when she was seven years old. She then went along with her younger brother, Sidney, to live with her maternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. R. Semple at Sunnyslope, Alberta.

In 1913 when her father remarried, he set up housekeeping in Calgary and brought the three children home, Mabel, Sidney and Dorcas. Her stepmother kept house while her dad was overseas during World War I.

She received most of her schooling in Calgary, graduating from Crescent Heights High School and Calgary Normal School. In 1922 she came to Ross School



Mabel and Charlie.

to teach and boarded with Mr. and Mrs. John Watson at Irma. Later she taught at Lynx and boarded with Dick and Lila Rohrer who were newlyweds. She taught in Kinsella and then went to Rosedale. In 1932 she married Gordon Holt, better known as Todd, son of Charles Holt, and went to live at the Holt Ranch, now the Holt Hutterite Colony.

In December, 1938 Charles Magrath Holt Jr. was born and in 1939 Gordon was killed in a farm accident.

After taking a refresher course during the summer of 1939 she started teaching at Sunny Brae and took up residence in Irma. The following year she taught in Irma School, later going to Wainwright and when Charlie was ready for University she moved to Edmonton. She taught there until her retirement and continued to live there until her death.



Charlie and Elizabeth Holt, Mark and Todd.

She was a very pleasant person, a friend to everyone and always willing to lend a helping hand. She loved to travel and during the last few years of her teaching and during her retirement she visited many European countries. Her one ambition was to take a freighter trip to Africa and after a ten year wait she got her chance. She was back about a month when she passed away August

4th, 1978. It was a trip she talked about to everyone and I am sure it was the fulfillment of her life's ambition.

Charlie took a Chartered Accountant course at the University of Alberta. He married and moved to Ontario where he still lives. Charlie and Liz have two sons, Mark and Todd.

J.M. HOLT BAR HEART RANCH (1919-1949)

Charles Larkin Holt, his wife Martha, and their two sons, Joseph McBride and Charles Gordon (Todd) came to the Irma area in the spring of 1919. They purchased land from Pierce, and moved to the Irma area for the open ranges, which they lacked in their previous home in Stettler. The following fall Mrs. Holt took the two boys and moved to Tacoma Washington, so the boys could attend school. Mr. Holt sold his stock and hay and joined his family later on that fall. This proved to be a wise move, as that winter was one of the hardest and longest to hit Alberta in some time, wiping out many settlers.

They came back the following spring and carried on ranching. That fall they moved to Edmonton, so Joe Mac and Gordon could attend Alberta College.

In the spring of 1921, they were back again, the boys homesteading when of age.

In 1923, the Smith twins, Tobe and Dell came to live with the Holts, as Mrs. Smith had passed away.

In 1924, Mrs. Holt became ill and passed away in December. The men carried on the ranch, at that time milking up to forty cows by hand.

On New Year's Day, 1927, Joe Mac married Gladys Valera Smith in San Jose, California. Joe Mac used to say that he got married with money he made from selling coyote pelts. It was a great sport in those days to catch coyotes with hounds. He spent many an evening telling his sons of his coyote hunting.

Their first son, Philip McBride was born February 1928, followed by George Barry in August of 1929.

Early in 1932, Gordon married Mabel Magrath, and another house was built on the ranch.

On September 13, 1932, Charles Clifton was born to Joe Mac and Gladys. Four years later, in June of 1936, Mack Larue was born.

In December 1937, Charles Magrath was born to Gordon and Mabel.

Gordon was killed in March of 1939, when he was crushed between a pole fence and a load of feed. That fall Mabel and son, Charlie moved to Irma where she returned to teaching.

Phil, Barry, Clifton, and Mack rode horseback to Batts school, for the first nine years of their schooling. Phil and Barry then attended Irma for their High School education.

Some of the local people around who worked on the Bar Heart Ranch were: Lawrence White, Joe, Mike, Louie, and Francis Oracheski, Margaret Whidden, P.J. Harvey (Mrs. Martha Holt's cousin), Dwen and Harold Smith (Tobe and Dell's brothers), Earl and Orville Baker, Ray Simpson, Scotty Matthews, Jack Lloyd, Jim, Pat, "Pete" and "Boo" Hollar, Murray, Bill and Jim



Top right hand corner - Martha Holt in 1916.



Charles Holt with sons, Gordon and Jo Mac, 1917.

Walker, Scotty and Jum Kennedy, Albert Glasgow, Oscar Reitan, Sherman Prosser, Orville and Ken Smith, Tom Brooks, Jim Owen, Bud Handy, Ralph Mark, Bill Windmill, E. Hinneker, D. Tessman, Jack Wilkinson, Walter Thayer, Donald Dagg, Victor Carter, Henry Lindburg and Bud Montany.

Some of the land engulfed by the Bar Heart Ranch was previously owned and homesteaded by: Lister, McFadden, Ahlf, Batt, Lindberg, Cy Kennedy, Frank Murray, Wilson, Smith, Bridgeman, Loring, Moore, Marbury, Theroux (Bill), Armitage, Printup, Paulsen, Ambler, Parriet, Snyder, and Graham.

The Holt family moved to Edmonton in the summer of

1948. In 1949 the ranch was sold to the Hutterites and is now known as the Holt Colony.

Charles Larkin Holt lived in Edmonton a few years, then moved to Pheonix, Arizona where he passed away in 1961.

Joseph McBride Holt lived in Edmonton until 1974, when he and Gladys moved to Kelowna, B.C. Joe Mac passed away in July of 1975.

Mabel Holt passed away in Edmonton in 1978. Her son Charlie went through for a Chartered Accountant and he now lives in Toronto with his wife, Lizz, and two sons, Mark and Todd.

Gladys Holt moved back to Alberta after Joe Mac passed away and she now resides in Viking.



Gladys and Jo Mac holt on their 25th anniversary, January 1st, 1952.

In October, 1953, Phil married Josephine Saville. They now have four sons, Willam, Gordon, Marvin and Joseph, and one daughter, Mary Ann. They live on a ranch twenty miles northwest of Irma.

Barry married Gloria Fladegar in July of 1951. They have four sons, Tim, Terry, David, and Scott, and two daughters, Lori and Charlene. Barry and Gloria now live in Calgary.



Phil, Barry, Clifton, Mack and Charlie.

Clifton married Betty Anne Armitage in April of 1959. They have one daughter, Paralee, and three sons, Jaye, Larkin, and Robert. They are now farming in the Batt Valley, twelve miles northwest of Irma.

In April of 1962, Mack married Sherrill Thompson, and they have one son, Bradley and two daughters, Heather and Susan. Mack and his family now reside in Calgary, where Mack is working for Transalta Utilities.



Del Smith, Orville Baker, Jack Lloyd, Jo Mac Holt, Charles L. Holt, Gordon (Todd) Holt, Tobe Smith, P.J. Harvey.

THE JOSHUA HOLT FAMILY

by Bill Holt

The Holt family emigrated from Ballymena, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, in May, 1926, and arrived in Irma on June 1st, 1926. We farmed north of Irma for one year on the property now owned by the Thurstons. Then we moved to the farm four miles north of Fabyan, where we remained until 1966, when Mother and Dave sold the farm and moved to Vancouver, B.C.

My father Joshua P. Holt passed away in 1959 and mother died in December, 1980. Both are resting in the Irma cemetery.

Where have all the family gone?

Bill and Gladys Holt - Abbotsford, B.C.

Joe and Mabel Holt - Cloverdale, B.C.

Tom and Martha Holt - Edmonton, Alberta.

Sara and Marvin Nelson - Mount Vernon, Washington.

Mae and Bob Kurtz - Racine, Wisconsin.

David Holt - Vancouver, B.C.

Elizabeth (Lil) and Morgan Carr - Westeros, Alberta.

Sam and Mary Holt - Edmonton, Alberta.

Alice Barrett - Calgary, Alberta.

Hauling wheat for Tom Shaw in the winter of 1926, with the weather steady at forty below zero, with a team of horses and a sleigh, loading the wheat by hand with a Manitoba scoop, and unloading it the same way, over the platform into a boxcar. I had to hang up the reins and let the horses go, and run behind the sleigh to keep warm. Those were the days - the good old days. We had an outdoor hockey rink those days and the town pump at the fire hall.

When brother Joe and I worked for Norman King, Mrs. King wore out a cook stove every year, using the

new natural gas discovered on their property. She worked very hard feeding her family and crew. That was the life farming in those days, up at 4:30 in the morning until 9:00 at night.

I witnessed the town of Wainwright burning down in 1929, and as the liquor store burned, and the bottles exploded, people were bemoaning all that good liquor going to waste, when the price of liquor was going up.

A FARMER'S LIFE

*Down on the farm 'bout half past four
I slip on my pants and sneak out the door;
Out to the yard I run like the dickens
To milk ten cows and feed the chickens,
Clean out the barn, curry Nancy and Jiggs,
Separate the cream, and slop all the pigs;
Work two hours, then eat like a Turk -
And by heck I'm ready for a full day's work!*

*Then I grease the wagon, and put on the rack,
Throw a jug of water in an old grain sack,
Hitch up the horses and hustle down the lane
Must get the hay in for it looks like rain!
Look over yonder, sure as I'm born
Cattle on the rampage, and cows in the corn!
Start across the medder, run a mile or two,
Heaving like I'm wind-broke, then wet clean through.
Get back to the Hosses, then for recompence
Nancy gets a straddle of the barbed wire fence.
Joints all aching and muscles in a jerk,
I'm fit as a fiddle for a full day's work.*

*Worked all summer till winter is nigh,
Then figure up the books, and heave a big sigh-
Worked all year, didn't make a thing,
Got less cash now than I had last spring;
Some people say that there ain't no Hell
But they never farmed, so they can't tell.
When Spring rolls around I'll take another chance,
While the fringe grows longer on my old grey pants;
Give my s'penders a hitch, my belt another jerk,
And by heck I'm ready for a full year's work!*



Alice, Bill, Mary and Joshua Holt, 1942.



Joshua Holt cutting oats, 1957.

Many farmers will recall the hardships of prairie farming during the time this poem was written, but they will also remember the sharing and caring of neighbours, the fun of the country dances and picnics, and just visiting together in the evenings when the work was done.

I have many pleasant memories of our friends when we lived in Fabyan - the Jacksons, Watsons, Robinsons, Greys, Kilpatrick's, Burns, Adams, Miltons, Walter Adams, who did more than his share to see that no one went hungry during the depression, and many more who have left a very warm feeling in my heart for Fabyan, Irma and surrounding areas.

PHIL AND JOSEPHINE HOLT FAMILY

by Phil Holt

Phil, the oldest son of Joseph and Gladys Holt and Josephine, the oldest daughter of Joseph and Irene Saville, were married October 17th, 1953 at the Metropolitan United Church in Edmonton. Following a honeymoon in California and Arizona, they spent the winter in Edmonton. Josephine worked at the Cancer Clinic and Phil helped at the family farm. An application for employment with the Agriculture extension service was approved in May. They loaded their possessions in and on top of a 1951 Meteor sedan and headed for Berwyn, in the Peace River country where the District Agriculturist Office is located. Phil worked as assistant under Al Beattie.

Living conditions were not modern, i.e. cooking with wood, buying lake water which was brought in with a team and water tank, and an outdoor toilet, but they were used to that. The people there were very friendly and helpful. That fall Bill was born. In December they were transferred to the D.A.'s office at Athabasca for further training under George Godel. Home was a small two room apartment in an auto court. Athabasca area is populated by people who represent many countries in the world.

Work was very interesting but Phil wanted to get back to the land and try "practising what he was preaching". Taking leave of the D.A.'s office in Athabasca in November, they found employment at Art Zeigler's Hereford Ranch at Vegreville. They lived in a little old house in Henry Zeigler's yard and during the year with the Zeiglers they made many friends with the good people of Park Grove community. Gordon was born in March of 1956.

Phil again got itchy feet and became anxious to get started somewhere on his own. It so happened that

Howard Herrick of Minburn wanted to sell his farm and Tam Ambler of Irma wanted to sell his hilly pastureland adjoining the Herrick place. It was a perfect setup for raising cattle. In December of 1956 Phil, Josephine and their two sons moved at last to their own home. That house looked like a castle! Again Josephine had a wood stove to cook on, a coal furnace with one big grate or outlet that was either too hot or too cold, and an outdoor toilet. There was a light plant when it worked, but it was good to be working for themselves on their own place. The closest town was Minburn which is fifteen miles, but they chose Viking, twenty miles away, as it was a larger centre with a hospital and a creamery.



Phil Holt family. Bill, Gordon, Clay, Phil, Marvin, Maryanne, Joe, Shelly (seated), Wendy, Lana and Tausha, Josephine.

Power through the Jarrow Co-op was extended into their neighborhood in 1958 and the farm was "hooked up". This made life on the farm much more pleasant and with the help of electrical tools, etc., much of the drudgery was taken out of their work.

Phil and Josephine were blessed with three more children, Marvin in May of 1958, Joseph in December of 1962 and last but not least, Mary Ann, in June of 1964. The children took their schooling at Albert and Irma, all graduating from Irma High. The children learned to work at home and were a big help in getting the many and varied jobs and chores completed. They participated actively in all the school sports, drama and social activities as well as minor hockey, baseball and fastball. Needless to say, when living twenty miles from Irma and trying to balance out time for education, chores at home and organized sports, there can be pressures.

Bill and his wife Wendy, youngest daughter of Earl and Marguerite Burr, live near Kinsella. Wendy teaches at Holden school and Bill keeps busy farming, feeding out cattle and trucking with his "Mack". He has a daughter Shelly, age five, from his first marriage.

Gordon and his wife Lana, daughter of Victor and Velda Patterson of Wainwright, live nearby on land that was originally the George Osborne farm, one of the pole and mud buildings is still standing. Gordon and Lana are farming and raising beef cattle and Belgian and Quarter

horses. They have a son, Clay, three years old, and a daughter, Tausha, one year old.

Marvin lives at home. He works with his dad and farms land of his own.

Joe is training to be an electrician. He is employed by Battle River Electric of Wainwright to learn the basics and takes two months of courses once a year, now working on his third year. Joe was a player with the Wainwright Junior B Bisons when the club won the Central Alberta league for two years 1981-82 and 1982-83, and took the Alberta Junior B title in the 1981-82 season. Gordon and Marvin play senior hockey with the Irma Aces. Both boys played for the Bisons, Gordon for three years and Marvin for two.

The four boys all enjoy fastball in the summer. Gordon and Joe are catchers with Bill and Marvin as pitchers. Gordon is now getting into team roping and Bill enjoys his curling.



Bill, Barry, Tim, Terry, Phil, Gordon and Marvin Holt.

Mary Ann is now going to N.A.I.T. at Edmonton. She is busily learning medical records administration. This is her second and last year for the course. Mary Ann enjoys her sports and keeping physically fit. These include fastball, horseback riding, barrel racing and also likes to cook and sew.

Bill, Gordon and Marvin were all active members of the Irma 4H Beef Club. Bill was president for one year and won two championships with his calves. Gordon placed reserve champion twice. Their first year was a rude learning experience as all three steers stood at the bottom of the class. The 4H motto is "Learn to do by doing." This experience gave them more incentive to learn from their mistakes. The next two years they were at or near the top of the lineup. Bill has since been feeding out cattle. Gordon is keenly interested in raising cattle. Marvin is not as keen but does raise and feed out cattle. His great interest is reporting hockey games for the local paper.

Phil helped the 4H Club as assistant leader for two years and scoring the feeding reports each month for the members. He also served the Jarrow R.E.A. as secretary for sixteen years.

Josephine actively supported several community clubs, Buffalo Coulee W.I.; Irma Home and School; Kinsella Royal Purple and the Rodino Country Club, and is now



Phil and Gordon Holt with horses, John and Mike.

serving as the north Irma trustee in the Wainwright School Division.

Josephine enjoys working with young people. She taught a group of youngsters at Albert Sunday School when the Rev. Inglis held church services at Albert. She has encouraged young and old alike to take part in talent programs and has helped organize several amateur hours. Having the ability to play the piano by ear and being musically inclined, she led a little band of six boys. They called themselves the "7H's" being composed of four Holts, two Hollars and one Hunter.

One night at an Albert school amateur program the band was on stage playing, when five year old Joe decided to join the group and liven things up. Keeping time with two little batons, dancing and acting like Elvis Presley he put on an impromptu show that had the crowd roaring with laughter. The band were hard pressed to keep a straight face not to mention keeping in tune, but succeeded in winning first prize in their division.

Phil and Josephine are still actively engaged in the ranching part of the business and are looking forward to more time for leisure, visiting and seeing some more of Canada.

We would like to thank everyone involved with the Irma History Book for their time and effort.

JESSE B. HORN

by Lois Jack

Jesse Burton Horn was born March 4th, 1880 in Gardner, Kansas. He lived there and taught school until he came to Canada in the summer of 1920. Jesse married Nellie Riley in 1910 and to this union were born four children, Donald in 1911, Lois in 1914 and Bill in 1916 while still in Kansas. Pat was born in 1930 after they came to Canada.

In the spring of 1920 my mother (now Nellie Scott), my two brothers and myself came to Canada. We stayed with my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Riley on the farm south of Irma in a little house down by the lake. After the school term was finished in Kansas my dad came to Canada and went to Normal School to obtain his Alberta teacher's certificate. He taught in several districts, including Silver Lane, Battle Bend and in Irma

n 1923-24.

Donald lives in Calgary. He has four children, Lloyd, Helen, Patricia and Marilyn. They lost a daughter in infancy.

Lois married Fred Jack and they live in Irma. They have two children, Elaine Lewis in Calgary and Arthur and family living on the farm at Irma.

Bill lives in Kamloops. He has two children Luella and Bill, Jr.

My youngest brother Pat, lives south of Amisk on his farm. He has a family of four children, Brent, Gerene, Charles and Marlene.

My dad died in 1939 and my mother, who remarried, lives in Bawlf.



Jesse and Nellie Horn.

LAURITZ AND AUGUSTA HOSTRUP

by Edith Hostrup Hibbard

Lauritz Hostrup emigrated from Denmark to Ponoka, Alberta, in 1910. His wife-to-be, Augusta, followed him in 1911, where they were married. After spending some time in Ponoka, Mr. Hostrup became a homesteader. The homestead was located between Jarrow and Irma. They settled in Jarrow first, where Mr. Hostrup worked in a grocery store. While there they built the dwelling on the homestead as they were required to do. In 1917 they came to Irma with their three children, Edith, Kai and Ellen. Edith was born in Ponoka, Kai and Ellen in Jarrow. A fourth child, Henry, was born in Irma in 1922.

In 1918 Mr. Hostrup opened his general store in Irma across the street from McFarland's store, which at that time was a drugstore on one side and a grocery store on the other. Coming from the south on Main Street, the first building on the west side of the street was Mr. Love's real estate office; the second building a hotel and restaurant, and the third Mr. Hostrup's General Store.

The Hostrups lived in many houses in Irma because it was necessary each April 1st. to leave and spend a certain number of months each year on the homestead. The first house we occupied was one owned by Mr. Love. It was located east of Main Street in a hollow just below the church and rectory. I remember the influenza epidemic of 1918 when they used the church as a hospital. My father raised chickens. They came down from the church to buy the chickens for food for the patients. Our mother had a tub of formaldehyde and water on the stove all the time.

We were not allowed outside the house without a mask. As soon as we came in, the mask was placed in the formaldehyde. Our father, who was in contact with people in the store, did not come home at all. He slept in the store.

I recall going to school in a one-room schoolhouse with eight grades in the one room. I believe it was the building which later became the high school. This changed when they built the two-room schoolhouse. The first through fourth grades were in one room and the fifth through eighth grades were in the other room. The teachers I recall vividly are a Miss Borden, who was my teacher, and a Mr. Horn, who was the other schoolteacher.

Boys and girls were always very anxious for the school recess bell to ring, for we always had a baseball game going, or a competition to determine the Jacks champion. East of Main Street, beyond the Livery stable, they built us a skating rink. This was a very welcome recreation. Irma even had a hockey team, of which my eldest brother was a member. There was also a travelling company which would show movies in Irma from time to time. I have a faint memory of various skits, recitations and readings that were performed by the students and adults of Irma in the hall over the Co-op store. Of course, the annual Chatauqua was also a big event for us.

I have a vague recollection of a dentist coming to Irma once or twice a year. We were fortunate in having a full-time doctor - a Dr. McGregor. Our parents had many good friends around Irma - Robert and Henry Kasten, the Stougards, the Lindbergs, the Olsens. We had many enjoyable picnics at Battle River. My special friends were Maude Smallwood and Grace Love. My older brother's special friends were the Maguire boys, who also played on the hockey team. My sister's special friends were Nina McGregor and Hazel Jackson.

When my sister Ellen and I visited Irma in 1980, we were very pleased to recognize many of the places we remembered. Places where we had lived - Graydon's house, Barber's house and Clark's house. The church and the rectory, McFarland's store, the bank building all looked the same and all nicely kept and painted. The only disappointment was to find the railroad station gone.

The family left Irma for New York City, New York, U.S.A. in 1926.

JOHN HUBMAN

Mr. and Mrs. John Hubman came to the Irma area from Switzerland in the 1920's. They bought the Westbrook farm on N.E. 30-45-8 where they brought up their family. They had a family of five - Johnny, Mary, Heidi, Amelia and Bill. Mrs. Hubman had been ill and bed-ridden for some time. Heidi came home to care for her mother and when the threshers came she fed them. Her plum pies were the best they ever tasted, and threshers all agreed.

Eventually Heidi and Amelia went to the coast, Johnny went to Saskatchewan and Bill farmed and later moved to town. Mary married Jim Kennedy and later farmed the home place when Mr. Hubman was no longer able to carry on by himself. Today Dave Shubada owns the land. It is farmed by Randy Newton.



Heidi Hubman with her father, John Hubman, 1942 at Vancouver.



Taken about 1918 at Hubman home (formerly Lacrouix home), _____, Heidi, Mrs. Hubman and Mary (Hubman) Kennedy.

WILLIAM AND EILEEN HUBMAN

as told by Eileen Hubman

William Hubman, or Bill as he was commonly known, was born at Dodgeville, Wisconsin and came to Alberta with his parents about 1918. He grew up on their farm in the Sunny Brae district where he received most of his formal schooling. As he grew up he farmed with his dad and in 1934, went to Biggar, Saskatchewan where he worked for five years with his brother John who was a mechanic there. Bill returned to Irma and worked for the Department of Highways for a number of years.

Eileen Robertson was born in Vancouver and with her parents and brother moved to a farm in the Irma district in 1921. She took her formal schooling in Irma. In 1940 she married Bill Hubman. Their oldest son Garry was born before Bill joined the services where he served for three years. After his discharge he and the family tried farming on the Robertson place for about five years during which time it was very dry weather and crops were poor, causing them to become very discouraged.

Bill and Eileen moved into Irma in 1950 and have lived here since then. In 1956 Bill began employment with the Department of National Defence at Wainwright; commonly known as the Army Camp where he continued working until his retirement in 1978. Four more children had been added to the family. He enjoyed his retirement until he suddenly passed away in 1982. For a few years Bill and Eileen and family lived in the house where Harold and Gwyneth Gulbraa now live. In 1954 they built their own home on the west side of the village.

In 1958 Eileen began working part-time at the Army Camp and full-time from 1973 until her retirement in 1984. She is enjoying life in her modern comfortable home and having time for her children and grandchildren.

Garry the oldest of Bill and Eileen's family, who lives in Pitt Meadows near Vancouver, is a trucker and has two children.

Bob, a qualified plumber, lives with his wife and two daughters at Spruce Grove and works for Northwestern Utilities.

John (Pat) also a qualified plumber, lives at Spruce Grove with his wife and two daughters.

Mary Lou Macdonald lives at Sherwood Park with her husband and her son and two daughters.

Jerrold, the youngest, who lives with his wife at Lloydminster, is a funeral director.

HUFFMAN

Edward Huffman was born in Dayton, Ontario in June of 1879. He and his wife came to Irma in 1911 to their homestead NW 36-45-9. His wife and baby died during childbirth in 1913. He was a lover of horses but according to the Irma Times this love was worn a bit thin at times. Once a team of colts he was using to disk with suddenly became frightened and started to run. Ed was thrown clear and the horses stopped when the reins wound up on the disk. He was able to attract the attention of Jim Paul's hired man who assisted in unhitching the team. The only damage was a broken disk. Another time he was caught in a very bad hailstorm while seeding. During the storm's progress the horses headed for a bluff about three-quarters of a mile away, where he managed to get them unhitched. Although Ed received a good soaking the only damage was a few less chains on the drill. In the early thirties Ed did some outside painting on buildings in Irma. He was a member of Alberta Farmers Union and signed for the incorporation of the Irma Co-op Store. He continued to live on his farm and enjoyed visiting neighbors until he passed away on November 6, 1947.

Ed's brother James was also an early settler, homesteading the quarter on which Hugh Tomlinson now lives (SW-24-45-9) in 1909 and also ran a store in Irma. He returned to Ontario in 1912 and passed away in 1943. A cousin, Claude Huffman homesteaded NE-18-45-8 in 1910.

AUGUST is when your kids don't want to leave the summer camp they didn't want to go to in July.

LYN HUNTER

by Nerine Hunter

Lyn Hunter was born at Sedgewick, Alberta, March 2nd, 1918. He got his schooling at Wheatland and Park, which were country schools and also at Sedgewick school.

In November, 1937 he moved out to Chilliwack, B.C. with his folks. Lyn rode in a boxcar out to the coast with their horses and machinery. He didn't care for it at the coast so again they loaded horses and machinery in a boxcar and Lyn came back to Alberta.

He boarded at Dick Rohrer's for awhile and farmed what was then called "the Henry Greenwood half", which later Lyn bought from Mr. and Mrs. Murray of Sedgewick.

In May of 1941 Lyn married Nerine Shippy. Nerine is the eldest child of Claude and Goldie Shippy. She was born March 18th, 1918 at home (S.E. 2-48-10-W4th) and received her schooling from grade one to grade ten at Lynx. She remained on the farm helping her father until her marriage to Lyn. They bought a quarter of land (N.W. 31-47-9-W4th) and lived in what they called their honeymoon shack. They later built a home on the same quarter and lived there for the remainder of their married life. From this union of thirty-four years, four children were born.



Nerine and Lyn Hunter and their honeymoon shack.

Clarence (the eldest) born October 9th, 1943 in Viking, started school at Willowview where he rode horseback four miles each day. From there he went to school at Albert and went on to the Irma school. He spent many years living in Whitecourt and working for different companies. From there he moved to Hinton and now lives in Edmonton. In January, 1982 he married Kathy Heggie and they now have one son Lonnie. The last few years Clarence has been employed in construction.

Goldie was born on July 18th, 1946 in Mannville. She also started her schooling at Willowview and rode horseback with her brother. They also rode horseback to Albert until the start of the school bus. She went to Albert until the end of grade nine and then received the remaining of her high school in Irma. After graduating from grade twelve she moved to Jasper where she was employed in the hospital. There she met Dave Man-nington of Coaldale, Alberta. They were married in Irma



Lyn Hunter family, Mother, Dad, Clarence, Goldie, Claudia and Gerald.

on May 22nd, 1965. They lived in Derwent and Lloyd-minster and have now spent many years living in Calgary. They have two teenage children, Paula and Perry. Goldie is employed with Nova (an Alberta Corporation) and Dave is employed with Motorola Communications.

Claudia is married, has three children and lives on the family farm. See Bob William's story.

Gerald, the youngest, was born on July 3rd, 1956 in Mannville. He started school at Albert and from there he went to Irma where he continued until the end of grade ten. He lived in Viking where he was employed in a number of different jobs. He moved to Calgary where he was employed with the Gas Company. On April 5th, 1980, in Calgary, Gerald married Charlene Melnyk of Viking. They have two small boys, Robin and Cory. They still reside in Calgary where Gerald is employed with Kenbrent Refrigerated Express.

In January of 1976, Lyn passed away suddenly at the age of fifty-seven.

Nerine, having worked in Viking for a couple of years, moved into a basement suite in town. But her love of the farm and country life brought her back to the farm and community where she had spent all her life. She now lives there with her daughter and son-in-law, Claudia and Bob Williams and family.

JERRY AND MAUDIE HURST

I, Jerry Hurst, was born near Ormsby, Ontario in 1907. We came west to Fallis about forty-five miles west of Edmonton in 1911 and lived there until I was about sixteen years old. I then went to work on a B. and B. gang for the C.N.R. and finally wound up at Leyland (close to Cadomin). I met my wife (Maudie Walker) there and after we were married I got work with the Cadomin Coal Company. I worked for them for nineteen years, mostly in the power house and machine shop. I played in the Cadomin band and the last six years we had our own orchestra.

We left Cadomin in July, 1945 and came to Irma. After starting and helping to run the Irma Coffee Shop for one to two years, working at the rink and for John Ostad and the Co-op Store, I bought a half interest in the

Irma Machine Works in 1948. While in the machine shop we started a Brass Band and for awhile we were going along pretty well. We got some help from players at Viking and a big boost from the Wainwright Band, but eventually we got so we were too few so we had to fold.

My wife started a Junior Band and at one time had over fifty children in the Band. She had to quit as she was losing her voice and the doctor told her she could lose it altogether if she kept on. I have heard that a number of these youngsters have kept on with their music.

In 1969 I reopened the lumberyard that had been operated many years by Imperial Lumber Company. I sold out in June of 1976 for health reasons. In 1972 Bill Belton took over the machine shop.

We have three daughters, Helen, Gladys and Iris plus eight grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren so far. Gladys and Iris, Gail Owen, Erna Owen and Cindy Owen live in Edmonton. Jerry Owen lives at Hinton. Helen is close to Portland, Oregon.

We often think of our friends at Irma and district and wish them the best in the future.

I, Maudie Hurst was born in Clarksberg, Ontario, February, 1906. My dad, William Walker, came to Alberta the spring of 1908 and filed on a homestead about thirty miles south of Mannville and six miles north of where Irma now stands. Our home consisted of a one-room shack fourteen by sixteen feet made of sod and just a dirt floor. Dad built two bunk beds to sleep eight. There was Mother and Dad, Arlene thirteen, Charlie eleven, Alfred nine, Elizabeth seven, Anna five, Maudie two and one-half. Our mother and children came out in November of the same year. What a change as we came from a thirteen-room home in Ontario. We all had scarlet fever that winter except Mom and Dad. The closest doctor was at Vermilion, forty miles away.

Dad worked on the big wooden bridge that crosses the Battle River this side of Wainwright. He also helped build the C.N. Railroad that runs through Irma. He worked on the Ross School as well as Education Point School. My mother taught school at Ross. Berta was born in 1911 and Ashley (Bud) in 1914. Grandpa and Grandma Preston came from Philadelphia in 1909 and obtained a homestead northwest three miles from us. Grandma Preston ran the first hotel that was built in Irma for a number of years.

Dad and Charlie were in the first World War; Charlie was overseas four years and Dad not quite so long. Mother and the rest of us worked on the farm. In 1923 we had a sale and sold all the stock and machinery. Then we all went out to work. My first job was housework and babysitting for Mrs. Elford in Irma. Then I went to work for Mrs. Shaw in the hotel on Main Street in Irma for a year. The folks had moved to Edmonton and I went up to work for Mrs. McKinnon. Mom and I went to Cadomin and that is where I met Jerry. Later we married and settled in Cadomin. We lived there for nineteen years and that is where our three daughters were born. It is beautiful country up there. We loved it but the altitude was too high and the doctor told me I would have to go to a lower altitude, much to the sorrow of our three daughters, Helen, Gladys, and Iris, eighteen, sixteen and fourteen. That was in 1945 when we moved to Irma, July



Maudie and Jerry Hurst at an Irma Sports Day.

13th. We built the Irma Coffee Shop out of a building that had stored machinery years before. We only had the Coffee Shop a year and then sold to Mrs. Murphy. We built a house in the west end of Irma and I went to work in the Co-op store for two years.

We started our orchestra during that time. As Jerry had bought a half interest in the machine shop he found that the orchestra was too much along with the shop work so he had to quit the orchestra. Eventually we had to quit entirely as some of the players moved away and I had to have an operation. After I got better I started an all girls orchestra consisting of Marney Kennedy (Barss) banjo and accordion, Norma Guiltner drums, Alvina Soneff piano, Iris Hurst first saxophone and Maudie Hurst second saxophone. Norma and Alvina had to go back to school so Audrey Jones (Nissen) played the piano and Marney played drums. This orchestra travelled extensively.

After the Senior Band quit I thought maybe I could organize a Junior Band and came up with over fifty youngsters wanting to learn band music. We were getting along very well when my voice gave out and the doctor made me quit or otherwise I would lose my voice altogether. I have always felt very badly that it had to end that way, but I am glad to hear that many of you have continued with your music. Good luck!

I could write much more of Irma and district - so many people I would like to mention that we have known through the years and we do think of you all as friends.

Editor's Note: Just to add a bit more to Maudie's story - many of us knew her not only for her music but also for the many lovely paintings she did while in Irma. Several of these hang in the homes of Irma today.

VIC AND ISABEL HUTCHINSON

by Isabel Hutchinson Crockett

Vic left his birthplace in England to homestead in southeastern Saskatchewan when he was in his early twenties. He bought a tractor and threshing machine and went from farm to farm harvesting each fall.

I was born in Mayfield, Prince Edward Island and



25th anniversary June 7th, 1947, Vic and Isabel Hutchinson.

came west in the spring of 1918 to visit my brothers, Homer and Frank Wyand in Saskatchewan. One fall when the Hutchinson harvesting equipment was at the Wyand farm, I met Vic, when he arrived in for dinner with a very dusty face and very large blue eyes sticking out of it. After we were married in Regina in 1922 we farmed for one year, but the crop was a failure; so we moved to California where my oldest brother lived. During the next four years Vic worked as a blacksmith on a lemon ranch where he shod about twenty-five mules. Sometimes the mules had to be put in stocks, a framework to keep the mules from striking out with their front feet. I found work during the summers grading lemons. In 1927 we moved to Vancouver, where Vic obtained carpenter work with his brother-in-law, Walter Crockett. Deciding to move again, we went to Saskatchewan in 1931, but found the crops very poor and conditions for finding suitable work not promising.

While visiting relatives in Kerrobert, Vic placed an ad for a blacksmith shop in the Edmonton Journal. A letter

came from Mac McLeod of Irma, who had a shop for sale. We drove to Irma and were favorably impressed with both the business and the village; so we bought the business and rented the McLeod house. Our business was later moved to the building now owned by Keith Coffin, where Vic at various times had the agency for Red Head Petroleum products, Massey Harris machinery and Hudson cars, and also built round wooden water tanks and ground grain for farmers in the area.

Vic built a house behind the shop where we lived for several years before we had it moved to 53rd Street, and built an addition onto it. Vic passed away suddenly in February, 1958, and I sold the house to Lina Nilson and moved into a smaller house I had renovated on 2nd Avenue. When I bought the Tripp house across the street I moved into it, and for a while cooked dinners for the McRoberts family in their home.

In November, 1965, I married Walter Crockett in Vancouver, and we made several trips to Irma to visit relatives and friends, before Walter passed away in January, 1972. I now live in a Senior Citizens Lodge where I would welcome visits and phone calls from Irma friends.



Wedding of Walter and Isabel Crockett in Vancouver, November, 1965.



Vic Hutchinson at work in his shop.

H.W. INGLIS

by Harvey and Irene Inglis

Harvey Inglis was born in Dufferin Municipality, Manitoba, in 1905. In 1906 his family moved to Saskatchewan but eventually returned to Ontario where Harvey received his education. After finishing High School he came West on a harvest excursion and worked around Lanigan. There he saw young people growing up without any church influence and he wondered what kind of society we would have in the days ahead. The question kept nagging him, "What are you going to do about it?" When he returned East he worked for a farmer who specialized in prize Clydesdales and Shorthorns and showed them at all the fairs. He liked his job but that question kept bothering him, "What are you doing about those young people in Saskatchewan?" In 1927 he was recommended by the Session of the Walkerton United Church and the Bruce Presbytery as a candidate for the ministry. He graduated from Victoria College in 1930, and Emmanuel Theological College and was ordained in 1933.

During his college career he served five summer mission fields, two in Saskatchewan and three in Alberta. He also met Irene Davis, a Saskatchewan Minister's daughter, who was attending the United Church Training School in Toronto, and who later agreed to do missionary work with him. The young people were married in 1933.

Harvey was appointed to serve the Notikewin Pastoral Charge, north of Grimshaw. When he went there in June the roads were mud and water and the mail truck, a Model T Ford, had to be hauled two miles through the Whitemud Flats. He saw that this was no place for a car so he used horses during his six years at Notikewin. There were four preaching points. Each Wednesday Harvey rode horseback to Deadwood, twenty-five miles away, for an evening service. Irene became organist, choir leader, Sunday School teacher and CGIT leader.

When winter came in October Harvey bought harness and a cutter and broke his saddle horse to drive. The cold and snow increased. New Year's it was 72° below F. We were nearly out of wood. So was everyone else. When a chinook came January 3 people began to go to the bush to haul wood and we were able to hire a man to bring us fifteen loads, our supply for a year.

Although many were financially poor they had vegetables and chickens and it was possible to get a small grant to buy flour and other essentials. Bales of clothing came to us from the Church in Eastern Canada to be given to those in need.

When the W.M.S. of the United Church learned of the need for medical services they agreed to build a hospital if the community supplied the lumber and shingles, basement excavation, a well and gravel for cement work. Harvey was chairman of the hospital committee and travelled many miles organizing volunteer crews to do the work. In September 1937 the hospital was opened and served the community for many years. Two of our sons Gordon and Hugh were born in Notikewin.

In 1939 we moved to Thorhild, a six point charge. We bought a car but still needed the horses for winter



Harvey and Irene Inglis.

driving. Ian, our third son was born there. In 1943 Harvey received a call to Mirror where Isabel was born.

At the same time the Home Mission Board began to pressure Harvey to become Assistant Principal of the Indian Residential School northeast of St. Albert. He could see the need for changes in the character of Indian work but soon found he could do nothing about it, he was just the farm instructor, so he resigned. Soon after Irma United Church issued a call and we moved there in July 1945 to stay till June 30, 1970.

There were five preaching points on the Irma Charge, four one Sunday, three the next. As schools became consolidated Passchendale, Roseberry, Alma Mater, Sunny Brae, and finally Albert were closed and the church work was centered in Irma. Many changes were made in the church building and in the manse and always there were many willing hands to accomplish the tasks.

Colin, our youngest son, was born in Irma. Our five children graduated from the Irma High School and the University of Alberta and are engaged in the field of Education. We think Irma was a good place to live, to work, and to raise a family. We thank our friends in Irma and in the church. We pray that the church will continue to be a strong influence in the Irma District.

BILL AND MINA INKIN

Bill was raised in the Alma Mater district where he took his schooling before going on to the Irma High School. Bill was always good at sports, especially the hundred and two hundred yard dash, and the half mile run. He played hockey with the Irma Seniors and other teams from 1936 to 1951. Baseball kept him busy in his leisure-time during the summer. He played with Irma,



Bill Inkin, Sr.

Vermilion, Loughheed and Mannville on various sports days all over the country. There was lots of good baseball in those days.

Bill was already farming in 1940 when his dad died. In 1943 he married Mina Currie, and we have two children, Carolyn and Bill Jr.

In 1956 we were completely hauled out so I went to work at McFarland's store, supposedly for one year, and stayed for twenty years. Needless to say they were good to me.

Farming has progressed a great deal in the forty years since we've been here. It has progressed even more so since our parents started, but we are still doing it and still like it.

Carolyn married Jim Fisher and they live at High Prairie, Alberta. They have three children, Edward, Leanne and John. Carolyn trained for a nursing aide and worked in the High Prairie hospital before her marriage. Later she worked in a pre-school clinic and is now working in a dentist's office. They started the Car-Jim Refrigeration business. Ed works with his father.

Bill Jr. is on the farm with his dad. He worked for Schlumberger for a few years before and after he married Audrey Chomik from Viking. They have a son, Aaron. Audrey has a hairdressing business at home. At present they are starting a purebred Charlois cattle operation.

GEORGE INKIN

by George Inkin

I, George Inkin, was the youngest of three children born to William and Lillian Inkin at Mallerytown, Ontario, in 1909. When my dad came to Canada he worked on a dairy farm in Ontario, but as he and cows didn't get along, he soon changed jobs. My dad took up railroading so our family moved around quite a bit. My mother died when I was two years old. When my father joined up for World War I we kids, Maude, Sidney and myself were put into an I.O.O.F. home at Oakville, Ontario. We lived there for four years. As I look back now it was quite an experience. They were very good to us at the home.

My father married Miss Laura Felts and we three children went to live with them. After the war we moved onto the Bruce Barber farm three miles northeast of Irma. That was the home of the Inkens for many years and is still farmed by William Inkin Jr.

About the year of 1932 I left Alberta and went to

Saskatchewan, where I worked on a ranch owned by Mrs. Archie Young - a very good place to work. Later I married Margaret Stewart from Unity, Saskatchewan and moved back to the Irma district for a short time. I was hired by the Searle Grain Company and bought grain at several different towns. I enjoyed my work very much but when the Alberta Pool offered me a job with better pay, I moved to the Peace River country. When I got there the air was so clean and fresh and the country so pretty I said to myself "Inside jobs are not good for you George". So I got myself a job on a farm working for a nice gentleman by the name of George Stoner. I worked there for four years and then joined the work force of the town of Spirit River. While there the town sent me to University for two winters to study the operation of a water filtration plant. I then took over the operation of their water system. To make life more interesting I started a police force for our town, with the help of the R.C.M. Police.



George and Margaret Inkin in their store at Chilliwack.

When the years crept up on me I decided it was time to get out of the cold Peace River Country -- the winters were too cold and too long. So my wife and I decided to move to Chilliwack, B.C., where we bought a grocery store. We remodelled it and made it into a General Store. Business was slow at first, but when it started to roll it really rolled. We were in the store business for ten years when due to ill health we were forced to sell out. We took a three month holiday and as I was only fifty years old at the time -- too young to retire, -- we relieved at several stores while the owners took a holiday. We also set up a few stores in the Fraser Valley, one big one on an Indian Reserve. We trained six native girls to run it and the next year we trained three more. Since then they have done very well.

Our family consisted of one boy and two girls. The older girl passed away at thirteen years of age. We have three grandchildren all living in Chilliwack as well as their parents.

Once again ill health stopped us -- for good this time. We are retired now and live in the city of Chilliwack, a wonderful place to live. We celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary November 3, 1983.

PHILIP INKIN

Philip Inkin was the oldest child born to William and Laura Inkin. He took his schooling at Alma Mater, Irma and Wainwright. He was active in sports. Phil farmed at home until 1941 when he joined the R.C.A.F. He took his training at Manning Depot in Edmonton, radio training in Vancouver and radar training in Clinton, Ontario.

He married Doris Anderson and went overseas to England. He was stationed mainly at Lissett R.A.F. base in Yorkshire, where he was a radar mechanic on Halifax bombers. After the war he returned home and went farming north of Fabyan. They moved to Vancouver in 1956 and on to Denver in 1962 where they live today.

Phil is a computer programmer for the Pepsi Bottling Company. He curls and golfs. They have two children, Frances is married to Sergeant John Banton and they live in Winnipeg with their three children. Don Inkin is a radio broadcaster for sports and is a real estate agent. He and wife Laurie and two children live in Seattle.

WILLIAM INKIN

by Maud Hobbs

William Edward Inkin came home to Canada at the end of the Second World War to his new bride Laura and three children -- Maud (14), Sidney (12), and George (10). He had emigrated to Canada with his first wife Lillian and baby Maud in 1907. They settled in Ontario where Bill was in demand as a hired worker on the numerous dairy farms. A hard worker, a real go-getter, he never lacked for jobs. Consequently the family moved fairly often.

Moved and George were added to the family as they moved around Southern Ontario. Then, in 1910, as a consequence of childbirth, Lillian passed away leaving a very young family in Bill's care. Several years were spent trying to cope by means of housekeepers and having the children live with local families. Finally, as Maud grew up somewhat, they tried to manage on their own.

With the declaration of war in 1914 Bill felt it his duty to enlist. It took a while to make arrangements for the care of the children. He finally succeeded in having them accepted into the Independent Order of Foresters' Home in Oakville, Ontario. With them looked after, he enlisted in the 33rd Battery, Canadian Field Artillery in Kingston in 1915. As a driver he was once again working with his animals.

The children remained in the home for about three years.

Bill served in the front lines in France and Belgium, undergoing numerous gas attacks. In one of the major battles he suffered a ruptured appendix as the result of a horse falling on him. By the time he was returned to Manchester for treatment gangrene had attacked much of his intestinal tract. After extended treatment in hospital he was released but had to stay in England for out-patient care. During this time he met Laura Felts. They were married during his recuperation period.

Laura came to Canada during the summer of 1918, before Bill was discharged from the services. She settled

in Toronto and had Maud join her there.

In the meantime, Bill had been put in the band in England. As a young lad he had learned to play the cornet so was given a posting to the Military Band to keep him in active service. He was one of the last soldiers to come home as his assignment was to play for the troops embarking on the homeward journey.

Arriving home in time for Maud's fourteenth birthday, he started to gather his scattered belongings and family for a trip westward to attain a farm of his very own. After a very long and tiring trip by train across Canada, the family arrived in Edmonton, Alberta in late April. Another two weeks was spent here before the Inkin family finally settled on a farm three and a half miles northeast of Irma.

Previously the homestead of Bruce Barber, their new home consisted of a quarter section with forty acres of broken land, a house, a small barn and a chicken coop. All the children of Bill and Laura's family were born here starting with Philip at Christmas of that year. Following years saw the arrival of William Edward Junior, Lillian, Geoffrey, and Gwendolyn to complete the Inkin family of today.

In spite of the hard work that homesteading entailed, Bill still found time for sharing his love of music. Through his actions a local branch of the Legion was formed in Irma and a Veteran's Band was organized. He himself sang comic songs and played cornet solos at district concerts. At Easter and Christmas he was kept busy playing at most church services and gatherings. If his name was forgotten he was often described as "the little Cockney northeast of town".

In the mid-twenties there was a movement in the community of Irma to build a small Anglican church to save the trip into Wainwright on a Sunday. As the plans grew and the church on the edge of town became a reality, Bill purchased a small pump organ to be placed in it.

As his children grew in size and number, Bill turned his interest towards sports. During the early thirties local hockey and ball teams were organized and the Inkin family was well-represented by Phil, young Bill, and Lily. Father encouraged and supported his children -- even taking the girls' softball team Lily played on up to Edmonton to play in Renfrew Park.

With the passing of the years the family grew and spread about. Maud went to Edmonton where she was a member of the first class of nurses to graduate from the University Hospital in 1926. She married Edwin (Ted) Hobbs and has lived in Edmonton ever since.

Sid farmed locally for several years, then moved into Irma to operate a dray business. With the establishment of the Military Camp at Wainwright he became a civilian employee - remaining there until his retirement. He lived in the town of Fabyan until his death in 1974.

George jobbed about the Irma district until his marriage to Margaret Stewart. They then moved to northern Alberta -- Spirit River -- where George was town constable for some time. They then moved to Chilliwack, British Columbia, where he started a highly successful convenience store. Upon retirement they have remained in this community.

After the death of her husband, Laura remained on the farm with her family until young Bill was able to take over. She then moved to Vancouver where she remained until her death in 1973.

Wm. E. (Bill) Inkin passed away in 1940 but has left the legacy of an active family to the Irma district.

MR. AND MRS. ALFRED HENRY (FRED) JACK

by Lois Jack

Fred was born in Edmonton, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Jack of Clyde, Alberta. Lois, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Horn, formerly of Irma and district, was born in Gardner, Kansas, and came to Canada at the age of two years.

Lois started school in Irma in 1923 when her dad taught school here. Miss Graham was the Grade 1 teacher at the time. After twelve years' school here and there, and working, Lois returned to Irma to work for Mrs. Taylor, northeast of Irma, then for Mrs. R. Kasten south of Irma, and then for Doris and Ernie Simmons.

Fred came to Irma in 1935 to work for Ernie Simmons who had a trucking business. Those days were very different from now. They shovelled grain by hand, and used to haul it straight to the grain cars on the tracks, as some of the farmers shipped it by the carload then. It cost

1 1/4 to 1 1/2¢ a bushel to haul it, depending on the distance from town. Fred recalls when oats were 8 and 9¢ a bushel, and it cost 15¢ a bushel to thresh it. When he Fred and Lois were married on Feb. 14, 1941 in Irma United Church by Rev. E. Longmire. They lived in Irma where Fred worked for Ernie Simmons until 1942, when he joined the Army. When he came back from overseas Ernie had sold his trucking business and bought the general store in Kinsella, where Fred then worked until 1952, when he and Lois moved back to Irma and bought the hardware business.

Prices have greatly changed since 1952. In the "good old days" a china cup and saucer sold for \$1.50 - now it is \$9.95 for the same quality and pattern. An electric toaster then was \$10 or \$12; now it is \$50 or more.

In the fall of 1958 they bought the farm then owned by Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Charter, to which was added a few cattle. A few years later more land was added and the cattle herd grew as well. They have one daughter, Elaine Lewis, in Calgary. She and her husband Gordon have two sons, Graham and Ian, and one daughter Nicole. Fred and Lois' son Arthur and wife Lynn, with son Scott, live on the Charter "homeplace".

Fred passed away March 1984.

THE CHARLES JACKMAN FAMILY

by Joan (Jackman) Stone, Mollie (Jackman) Brinkman, Marilyn (Jackman) Hansen

Charles Robert Jackman was born August 4, 1885, in Great Yarmouth, England. He died on July 6, 1974, in Victoria, British Columbia. He served approximately fifty years in the Royal Navy and the Canadian Navy.

Mable Florence Price Jackman was born on July 25, 1885, at Croydon near London, England. She died on January 17, 1975 at Victoria, British Columbia.

The Jackmans immigrated to Irma, arriving in Canada April 4, 1926, with four children: Jessie, Joan, Mollie and Charlie, settling on a quarter section eight miles south of Irma.

In order to learn about farming, "Big" Charlie served as hired hand to Joe Gulbraa. The children learned how to ride horses bareback so they could attend Glenholm School four miles away. At school they endured a lot of teasing as "Green Englishmen", as indeed they were. Their accent, manners and clothing were a constant cause of hilarity but they found the other children helped them to adapt to a very different way of life. Many times Mollie remembers the older boys helping her catch "Old Sparkplug" her very cantankerous horse. Fluevogs, closest neighbours of the Jackmans, were especially kind to the new family in their midst. Mable's many English expressions caused hilarity when interpreted by Mrs. Fluevog and some of the Jackman family's best memories of Irma are times spent with the Fluevog family, including the unforgettable smell of coffee and doughnuts and homemade cookies!

Two more children were added to this family: Mable (May) and Marilyn. Mrs. Fluevog assisted Dr. Greenberg at their births. In 1936 the Jackmans decided, due to "Big" Charlie's ill health, to go to British Columbia. With Lloyd Erickson at the wheel of their old Old-



Fred and Lois Jack and Family Art and Elaine.

smobile, Mrs. Jackman and the six children were on their way, Charlie having preceded them to find a place to live and some kind of employment.

"Big" Charlie was called back to service in the Navy the day the Second World War broke out in 1939 and told to report to the Commanding Officer in Esquimalt. He received his commission as Lieutenant Commander in charge of Defensively Equipping Merchant Ships (D.E.M.S.), so they could at least defend themselves a bit when attacked. He was the only Gunner on the West Coast at the time and was in charge of installing the guns as well as training all the crews.

When Charlie was transferred to Vancouver in 1941 he worked in conjunction with Burrard Shipyards, installing guns as the ships were built. He also had a big training school for teaching young sailors how to fire anti-aircraft guns as well. He retired a second time in 1945 as a full Commander. His work on one occasion involved a trip to England, and while there he visited his daughter Mollie's husband, who was in the Armed Forces working in the Medical Corps at that time, while Mollie was busy in Victoria working at Yarrows Shipyard as one of the first female electricians to wire the warships. On another occasion on a trip to New York he was able to squeeze in a visit with daughter Joan who was employed at the time in Washington, D.C. with the Canadian Government. Joan later spent time at the same work in Ottawa, Bermuda, New York and Prince Rupert returning to Victoria after the war and marrying a Victorian. She now lives in Seattle, Washington. Joan has three children and several grandchildren. Jessie, the eldest, who was married to Wendel Hill from north of Wainwright, died of cancer at age fifty-three in Kamloops, British Columbia where she lived with her husband and four boys. Jessie worked in an airplane factory during the war, where she met her husband and at the same time carried on a short-lived literary career having several children's short stories and poems published.

Mollie has lived in Victoria since her marriage in 1941. After the War they built their present home where they spend their time in their extensive garden. She has a son and a daughter in Victoria and a daughter in Calgary,

Alberta. She also has several grandchildren. Mable now lives in Burnaby, British Columbia and has three daughters and one son and several grandchildren. She is retired and lives alone. After a teaching career covering thirty years interrupted by a short term in the Air Force, Marilyn is retired and living in Victoria with her husband and six children and several grandchildren.

As a coincidence that is interesting locally, Marilyn's eldest son, Steve is married to Pat Charron, who is the daughter of Irene Lambert and the granddaughter of Mary and John Lambert who still live in Irma. Pat attended school with Marilyn's daughter, Judy, and high school with the remainder of the family and Irene and Marilyn were very active in school and community affairs but didn't know until Steve and Pat were getting married that both Irene and Marilyn were from small-town Irma!!

"Little" Charlie apprenticed as an electrician at Yarrows Shipyard in Victoria and as soon as he was old enough he joined the R.C.N. and took his basic training at Esquimalt. He was later sent to train as an electrical engineer at Hunter College in Windsor, Ont. He served on the ship Restigouche. He now lives in Tacoma, Washington where he will retire in 1985 after working for General Electric for many years. He is married and has a son and two daughters and two grandchildren all living in the Tacoma area.

The Jackmans were good and helpful neighbors. Mrs. Jackman often served in the capacity of midwife in a time of need. They will be well remembered by their large community summer picnics in the coulee and the winter whist drives and Christmas Parties.

When the war was over the Jackmans made their home in Victoria, British Columbia. They were both active in Anglican Church affairs and community work. Charlie died in the summer of 1974 at age eighty-nine after a short illness. Mable, who had been chronically ill for many years, died in a chronic hospital the following January, 1975, also at the age of eighty-nine.

EDDIE AND LORNA JACKSON

I have been told that 1929 was a very dry year, and while it made very little difference to me, it so happens that on November nineteenth, 1929 Edward Roe Jackson was born to Jim and Minnie Jackson who lived on the northeast 14-45-9-W4. At that time Irma had a resident doctor by the name of Claude Greenberg. It was his first practice following graduation and I was the first baby delivered by the new Dr. Greenberg.

My first eight years of schooling were taken in Glenholm and I had four lady teachers beginning with Peggy Kjos (Mrs. Cliff Smallwood), Myrtle Burpee, Mrs. B.A. MacLean, and Margaret Shotts. For grade nine I came to the Irma Junior High School and was taught by Bert Wells, my first man teacher whom I liked very much. I took grades ten, eleven and twelve at Irma High with principal I.S. Reeds and his assistant D.H. Gunn. I enjoyed school and developed a warm relationship with all my teachers. I liked sports of all kinds and participated in hockey, fastball, baseball and curling.

It was while I was in the Irma High school that I met



Dan Larson and Jessie Jackman Hill riding Old Chief.



Edward Jackson Family: Charlie, Eddie, Lorna, Howard, Noreen, Phyllis, Bob.

RURAL LIFE

With rural pleasures let me live
Green fields have so much to give.
Wide blue skies and sunlit days
Fulfill me in so many ways.
My crowded spirit finds release
When I view the scenes of peace,
Afforded by the rural life.

The quiet nights, the gentle days
The animals and all their ways
Provide a pleasure unsurpassed.
I love each season; when it's past,
Look forward to the next, and
then,
Find my joys renewed again,
Communing with the rural life.

Lorna Grace Archibald who later became my wife. Lorna was born April sixteenth 1932, daughter of Charlie and Grace Archibald. She took her first nine years of schooling at Ross and grades ten, eleven and twelve at Irma High. She also participated in sports especially fastball and curling and played the banjo or drums in dance bands named Coultman's, Bandettes, and Sparkletones. Following her grad Lorna stayed with her Grandma Peterson and clerked in the Co-op Store in Irma. Following my grad I got a job working as a carpenter with Johnson Contractors of Edmonton, building the new Central school in Irma. From there I went to work for the Department of Highways. In the spring of 1950 I went to work for Bob Dempsey. The following spring I rented the southeast 13-45-9-W4 from Bob Dempsey and started my farming career using my Dad's machinery. In 1952 I also rented another quarter of land from Jim Burrell and bought some machinery of my own. July 23, 1952 Lorna and I were married in the Irma United Church with Reverend Inglis performing the ceremony. Folks were very generous to us. We received gifts all the way from linoleum for the floor to a team of horses. We set up housekeeping in a three-roomed house on the land rented from Bob Dempsey known as "Honeymoon Cottage." The house was quite comfy in spite of no running water, no electricity, and no indoor bathroom. We heated with wood and coal the first winter but when our first baby arrived we "blew the wad" on an oil heater. We had no telephone either, so appreciated family and neighbors coming for a visit. We milked cows and fed pigs and the cream cheque was called upon to buy the groceries and provide us with a bit of spending money. Washday was a real task. We usually filled the washboiler and reservoir on the stove Sunday night so Lorna could get an early start Monday morning with the washboard. She sure was happy when her Dad brought us

their old gas motor washing machine complete with wringer. We had no fridge or deep-freeze as we do today so all the vegetables and meat had to be canned. The milk, cream and butter were lowered into the water well to keep fresh and cool. As we look back now we realize what a unique lifestyle we had, but were just one couple in the same boat as many others.

On June 25, 1953 our first daughter arrived in the Hardisty Hospital. We called her Sarah Noreen. Our second daughter, Phyllis Isabella was born on a blustery March 2, 1955, also in the Hardisty Hospital. In April of this same year we moved to our new home, the former Roy Reber farm southeast of 2-45-9-W4. We had electricity and a telephone much to our delight. Along with the purchase of the farm, the pasture lease of crown land, section 29-44-9-W4 was also made available to us.

June 30, 1956 our first son, Robert Dempsey Jackson joined us at the Hardisty Hospital, followed by Charles Edward on July 9, 1959 and Howard Albert on November 9, 1963 who were born in the Viking Hospital.

Besides our family increasing, our holdings also did. Another pasture quarter of crown land S.E. 11-45-9-W4 was leased and the northwest of 33-44-9-W4 and northeast of 4-45-9-W4 were purchased. Times were good, lots of hard work and our family was a big help to us.

Some of our families' fondest memories are related to harvest time and its many duties. I started at an early age driving a team and rack on the threshing outfit. I worked for Fred Hill and Pete Funk, then my Dad started his own outfit. After we bought the Reber farm and my folks sold out, I bought a thresher and continued to harvest for a number of our neighbors each year. The day would begin by getting up to feed the horses at four o'clock and Lorna starting breakfast. We tried to be threshing by six, morning lunch at eight-thirty, dinner at noon, lunch at three-thirty and supper at seven - a long day. Our

children were called upon to do endless jobs before and after school. My mother and Lorna always had the cows milked at both places each day. Harvesting in this manner is truly an example of family and neighbor co-operation and a way of finding out if your neighbor had married a good cook! Wes Bacon was one of our most ardent teamsters, helping out even after his own crop was combined.

Ted Hill, Hugh Tomlinson and I combined forces to do the tedious job of putting up hay during the years our families were growing up. The kids did the mowing and raking, Hugh and I worked the stacks, and Ted ran the farmhand. Later we three purchased a Hesston which put an end to a lot of sweating in the hot sun.

Both Lorna and I have taken an active part in community affairs and projects. Being an Alberta Wheat Pool delegate for six years was one of the highlights of my life. Our children also took in some activities outside of schoolwork. The girls both won awards in drama under the leadership of Elsie McRoberts. They also enjoyed C.G.I.T. and curling. Our boys took a keen interest in sports of all kinds and each of our children raised a calf in the Irma Beef Club. Their calves were always choosen from our own herd. We feel very fortunate that our family were able to get their education right here in Irma.

In 1972 we decided to build a new home. Lorna and I drew up the plans and Harold Cockroft agreed to be the carpenter. It was truly a dream come true for us. You can imagine the thrill of "turning on the tap", no more "slop-pails" to run over.

We were nominated for a Farm Family Award in 1980 by the Irma Chamber of Commerce, sponsored by the Provincial Government, which we had the privilege of winning. Even though our family were spread out as far east as Winnipeg and Brandon they all managed to come and enjoy this very memorable day with us.

After much discussion with our family we decided to sell our farm in 1982 but keep one quarter of land. Henry and Judy Fenton purchased the farm and we moved into the former Rick Larson house in town where we still reside.

Noreen lives in Winnipeg where she owns and operates Sun Studio, a photography business.

Phyllis moved back to Irma after her daughter was born. Prior to returning to Alberta, she operated a shelter for battered women and children in Thompson and Brandon, Manitoba. Phyllis has two children, Dana and Tiffany.

Bob, Janet, Azure, Ryan and Michael Jackson live at Ma-Me-o-Beach where he owns and operates a number of school buses.

Charlie, who is a member of the R.C.M.P. since 1979, is stationed at Punnichy, Sask. with his wife Caroline and two daughters Brandy and Chandra.

Howard is living at home and has worked for Lakeland Insulations Ltd. since graduation. He also spent the last four years playing hockey for the Wainwright Junior B Bison Hockey team. In September 1984 he will be enrolling in the Camrose Lutheran College.

Both Lorna's parents and grandparents and my parents have added to the progress of Irma and com-

munity and for this we are truly grateful. Irma will always be "home" to us and our family.



Jim Jackson and Bob Dempsey the day they left for Canada.

JAMES JACKSON FAMILY

by Jim Jackson

James Jackson (more commonly known as Jimmie or Jim) was born on a farm at Golden Grove, Roscrea, County Tipperary, Ireland on August 17th, 1898. My brothers Bob, Arthur and I, along with a hired man, worked the home farm and as a sideline broke and trained horses (the Jacksons all loved horses). Becoming reasonably well-to-do, I rode a show jumper for a neighbor on several occasions, and twice rode a steeplechase for the same person. The Jackson boys all rode to fox hounds at times and on one memorable occasion all four of us were out to hunt the same day.

In 1924 my brother George came to Canada and worked on the Wm. Armitage ranch at Sedgewick, Alberta. George liked life in Alberta and said so in his letters home, so in 1925 Bob Dempsey and I came to Canada. We both worked on the Armitage ranch for forty dollars a month plus room and board. When harvest was finished that fall I took a job as office clerk in the Armitage Hotel in Loughheed which was owned by John Armitage, a cousin of Wm's. For this I was paid thirty dollars per month with bed, board and laundry. I also earned five dollars a month as janitor for the Masonic Hall, which was owned by Mr. Meservy. When spring came, I went back to the Ranch and worked there until the late fall of 1927 when I moved to Irma. On advice from Wm. Armitage I bought the west half of 14-45-9-W4th, from Mr. C.J. Young for \$6,500.00. With the farm I got four horses, a cow, three head of cattle, 50 ewes, a ram, a wagon, rack, sleigh, and some pieces of smaller machinery.

Mr. Charlie Young had his sister Frinda (Mrs. McGregor), a widow, and her daughter Nina living with him at the time. Herbert (Bert) Armitage was living on Section 15, with only the road between his house and the Young house, so I moved in with Bert for the time being and helped with chores at both places. Bert's father came

up in February, 1928, with a man called George Hipperson, a cattle buyer and they set out to buy stock. They bought twelve head of good unbroken horses from McLean and Patterson, and twelve from A.K. Stuart from near Mannville. It was while Bert and I were endeavouring to take those wild horses home which had been pastured on the open range, that I first met Minnie Bevington, who later became my life partner. I will attempt to relate the story.

The horses got away from us and headed north on a road on which there was only a sleigh trail. The horses stayed on this trail and we were unable to get ahead of them as there were several feet of snow in the ditches. Seeing a person on the road far ahead of the horses I shouted "Stop them". The person who proved to be Minnie, took her coat off and waved it as the horses came near. Some of them stopped, others went over the fence, but I got ahead of them and thanked her saying "You were clever to think of using your coat like that". She said "I was terrified, I thought they would run over me and kill me". Later, Hipperson told me she was an English girl, recently arrived from England and working for a Welsh family named Davis. He spoke highly of her. Sometime later and knowing that I needed a housekeeper, he took me up and introduced us on an occasion when Mr. and Mrs. Davis were in the city. When Hipperson introduced us he left, and Minnie and I had a chat. I told her I needed a housekeeper and would pay her the same as Davis's, ten dollars per month and board. By the end of February, 1928, Mrs. McGregor had moved into a house in Irma and Charlie Young had gone to Edmonton, so I went and got Minnie and all her worldly possessions. We proved compatible, and on April 18th, 1928 we were married in the Irma United Church manse by Rev. M.L. Wright. Bert Armitage and his housekeeper, Lottie White, attended us. We used Armitage's car and had a wedding dinner waiting for us prepared by a good friend called Jack Mooney. I went out disking that afternoon and Minnie carried on with the housework.

Minnie and I were blessed with three sons and a daughter. Albert married Beverly Lang (Lewis) and they have a family of four boys and one girl. They live in Edmonton and Albert is a driver for Sunburst Motors.

Edward married Lorna Archibald and they have two girls and three boys. Eddie farms in the Strawberry Plains district at Irma.

Isabel married Chester Bartholow and they live at Sundre, Alberta. They have three sons and three daughters.

Arthur married Marilynn Smith (Veer) and they have a family of two girls and one boy. Arthur is presently graderman for Division six M.D. of Wainwright.

Our first year farming in 1928, I hired an immigrant and paid him twenty dollars per month, board and room. He chopped and grubbed brush and I broke twenty acres with a Cockshutt sulky plough, with breaker bottom and straight colter. The wheat that year was a fair crop, but frost reduced the grade to three and four. In the spring of 1929 I again hired an Englishman from Newcastle on Tyne called Joe Traynor. He and I plowed all the wheat stubble. I had five horses on a two furrow, and Joe had three on the sulky. We seeded Garnet wheat and it was so poor we cut it with the mowing machine, raked and stacked it. The yield was two bushels per acre. The breaking was better at twenty bushels per acre. I sold two hundred bushels at \$1.29 and kept all the rest (about 400 bushels), on the advice of a man who professed to know for sure that the wheat would be worth \$2.00 per bushel next spring. However, that year was the start of the great depression and when I sold my wheat in the summer of 1930, I got a mere seventy-six cents.

In the old country we had always raised pigs, so I always had at least one sow and fed out the young ones to market weight. In 1930 I raised nine hundred bushels of rye. I took a tobacco tin full to the elevator one day while hauling wheat (which was selling for 24 cents by now) and was told it was tops, worth 11 cents per bushel if I had a carload. Charlie Young advised me to feed it and offered to loan me money to buy hogs. However, our sow had



Jim Jackson Family: Jim, Minnie, Albert, Eddie, Isabel, and Arthur.

twelve pigs and I bought a sow and eleven pigs from Jim Paul. I mixed rye and oats and hauled it to Irma to have it chopped by Vic Hutchinson for three dollars per load. When spring came I sold them at two cents per pound, about four dollars each. 1930 was a wet summer and crops were good. I had straw piles like small mountains.

In 1931 I rented the Henderson quarter from Bob Dempsey and again had a heavy crop. I sold one railcar of wheat loaded over the platform at forty cents per bushel, plus five cents donated by the Bennett Government. The carload from Dempseys was hauled by Simmons and Son by truck. Mr. Bill Cole was agent for Searle Grain in Irma at this time.

In 1933 Bob Dempsey started farming on his own place and I rented the W. 1/2 of 2-45-9-W4th from a man called Cliff Purvis, who was a crown prosecutor in Edmonton at the time. This land was fairly good and we got a few good crops. The south quarter had very little broken on it but there was some good prairie wool, on which I wintered some horses. About this same time I bought a single cylinder International stationary engine and an eight inch chopper. For several years we did our own chopping for the stock and also chopped for a neighbor called Jim Burrell. With this outfit we also made our own sunny boy for porridge. We would run some wheat through twice with the plates fairly loose, then sift out the finer stuff and mix this with white flour for bread. Then we would chop some rye and mix it with the coarse chopped wheat, mix in some flax and we had a cheap and wholesome porridge which we enjoyed. We would have it for supper once in a while and as a special treat have cream on it instead of milk.

We milked cows all the time we farmed, sometimes as many as six or seven and shipped the cream. I can remember at one time getting a dollar and twenty-three cents for a five gallon can of number one cream. When we did not have enough cream for shipping, Minnie would churn butter and we would trade the butter for groceries at J.C. McFarlands for ten cents a pound. We also traded eggs at five cents per dozen, but when they dropped to three cents we would feed them to the calves.

Sometime in the late thirties I rented the south half of 33 from the C.P.R. and the northeast of 14 from Tom Shaw. After renting the C.P.R. land for several years they cut down the asking price from seventeen dollars per acre to seven fifty so I bought it, paid cash and got fifteen percent discount. This gave me a fair lay-out. Over the years I broke out the open prairie patches and went around the brush patches. In later years I borrowed Thurstons Van Slyke brush-breaker and with eight horses broke out most of the brush patches.

Of course we had sheep all the time we farmed and had problems with the coyotes. One year we lost ten percent to the beggars. The price of wool declined steadily to a point where one year we only got three cents a pound. Lamb prices also declined. One year I butchered and sold lamb carcasses at three dollars each, weighing not less than forty-eight to fifty pounds.

During the years on the farm I became very interested in various organizations mostly pertaining to agriculture. This entailed a lot of travelling and time away from home. A very reliable hired man called Norval Miles

made it possible for me to travel.

In the early thirties I joined the Loyal Orange Association, Irma Lodge No. 2066 and served as Lecturer, Deputy Master, Master, and later became County Master. I attended Provincial Grand Lodge several times.

In 1939 I joined the United Farmers of Canada, Alberta section, and was elected to the board. I took part in the joint meeting in Edmonton of the U.F.C. and U.F.A., which was arranged to try to amalgamate the two. A motion was passed to amalgamate, thus Alberta Farmers' Union came into being. In January, 1942 a delegation was chosen to go to Ottawa to support the mass delegation from Saskatchewan. I was a member of this delegation of three, and was chosen as spokesman. This took place in the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa. In 1943 I was elected president of the A.F.U. and was re-elected in 1944-45. I also served as vice-president in 1946 and again in 1953. I served on the board of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture for several years. From 1952 to 1966 I was an Alberta Wheat Pool delegate, which I enjoyed very much, and made some lifetime friends. I also helped organize Canadian Co-op Implements and served as a delegate for a number of years and was elected to the board for fourteen years. I also attended meetings of the Food for Victory Committee in the M.D. of Wainwright and Alberta Post-War Reconstruction Committee in Edmonton. Closer to home, I am a charter member of the present Co-op Store and served on that board for twenty years. I spent ten years on the board of Glenholm School and several years as chairman. Other organizations which I took an active part in were: Gratton R.E.A.; Irma A.L.C.; Strawberry Plains Community Association; Fire Guardian and Weed Inspector for M.D. of Wainwright; Co-op Public Relation Federation E-14; there are possibly others which don't come to mind right now.

In 1957 my health started to fail, so on my Doctor's advice, I advertised the farm for sale and in April, 1958 sold to Delbert Galloway. We had a farm sale on April 23rd, 1958 and Minnie and I moved into Bob Dempsey's little house on Strawberry Plains. We had an English Ford Prefect car at this time which made thirty-five miles to the gallon, so we just relaxed and did some travelling. We spent five winters in California with my two uncles, from 1957 to 1964. One time we went to Los Angeles and visited Charlie Young and his niece Nina and to Santa Rosa, where we had a gala time with Olive (Larson) Grindeland, formerly an Irma girl. Minnie and I made a trip to Ireland, England and Scotland in 1966 and again in 1973, accompanied by our granddaughter Noreen Jackson. We have also made several trips out to the west coast to visit friends, and one more trip to the Land of the Green in 1976 with our daughter Isabel and Chester.

In 1958 we bought the house in which we now live from the estate of the late Ole Halvorson. Minnie and I celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary in April, 1978, and are at present enjoying good health. We have joined the New Horizon club here. I was president in 1979 and Minnie is now a director.

At the time of writing we have nineteen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren.

Minnie will tell you a little about her life since coming to Canada.

Ellen Minnie (Bevington) Jackson was born on December 6th, 1907 at Small Heath, Birmingham, England, and was raised by my grandparents in a little village called Ebrington, in the Cotswold country in Gloucestershire. My grandfather passed away in 1927, so I applied to the Government to emigrate to Canada. I left Liverpool, England on August 6th, 1927 by boat called Montcalm, arriving at Quebec on the 13th. Then I took the train to Edmonton, arriving there on the 18th, and spent the night at the Y.W.C.A. Next morning I left Edmonton by train and arrived in Irma at 11:00 a.m.

I was met by Mr. and Mrs. Dapper Davis with a horse and buggy. I remember there was just a cinder path from the train depot down to the Irma Hotel, and wooden sidewalks on both sides of Main Street. We drove out to their farm, north and east of Irma. The trail led across the open prairie where Albert Glasgow now lives, through the present golf course, Ron Thurston farm, east of Bob Smallwood's and north of Roy Burton's to their home. Mr. and Mrs. Burton lived south of us and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kirkpatrick's lived north of us. I became acquainted with some great and true friends, Mr. and Mrs. George Hipperson, who farmed east of Alma Mater school, Mrs. Hewitt who operated the Irma telephone office, and Mrs. Ina Knudson, who was postmistress in Irma for many years. I really appreciated their friendship as I did not know a soul when I came to Alberta.

However after my marriage to Jim Jackson I became a Charter member of the Ladies' Orange Benevolent Association, which was organized on March 16th, 1932. I went through all the offices and became Worthy Mistress. I held that office three different times for a two year period. I was elected to the Board of the Alberta Protestant Home for Children in Edmonton in March, 1944, and remained on the board until it was closed in 1967 by the Government. I attended the Grand Lodge Session of Alberta many times and in 1949 was elected as Auditor. A highlight of my life happened in 1959 when I became Right Worshipful Grand Mistress for Alberta. In June of that same year Alberta hosted the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Canada which was held in Edmonton. I was on all the committees, so had a very busy time until after June. That summer and fall I had the pleasure of visiting many Lodges throughout the Province. Some places I had not been before, and have not been since. In March, 1960 our Session was held in Calgary and I was asked if I would like to go on to the Dominion, I sure would liked to have had the pleasure, but our finances would not allow it. This year 1982, I was presented with my fifty year pin of the L.O.B.A.

I have worked for the Bethany Home for Children since 1971, gathering clothing, taking memorials, and knitting toques and mitts for the children at Christmas. I also joined the Women's Institute in Irma in 1949 and later in 1951 when the Strawberry Plains Branch was organized, I transferred, as we were still on the farm and it was easier to get to the meetings. I have been president, director, social service and publicity convener over the years. I have also been Social Service Convener for the

Wainwright Constituency.

My favorite hobby is knitting and I have held knitting classes in my home. At present I am endeavoring to knit an afghan for each of our grandchildren and just about have my task completed.



Mr. and Mrs. J.F. James taken in front of their shack, they were married in the spring of 1910.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN JAMES

Mr. John James came from England in 1905 and homesteaded in the Coal Springs district N.W. 1/4 4-45-10-W4th. He helped in the building of the railroad near Kinsella. His first shack was destroyed by fire and was replaced with another which served as home until a stone house was built by neighbors William and Gilbert Comley.

Amelia Russell came in April 1910 to be his bride and he met her by ox team at Loughheed. Four girls were born to this family: Jenny (Mrs. Harold Fuder), Ruth and Phyllis (deceased) and Ruby (Mrs. Floyd Fuder).

Other land was added to this farm, including the homestead of Mr. Sverre Ness of Loughheed. The land was rented by Harold Fuder for several years and is now owned by Ralph Erickson.

The tongue weighs practically nothing, yet it's surprising how few people can hold it.

WILLIAM JAMIESON

by Bill Boyd

William Jamieson was born in Ireland in 1874 and Martha Larson was born in Denmark in 1891. Bill and Martha came to Jarrow where they operated a livery stable for some time. They moved to Ponoka for awhile but returned to Jarrow in the early twenties to a farm one-half mile north of town where they lived until their deaths.

Three children, Mary, Hans and Howard were born to Bill and Martha. Hans and Howard attended school in Jarrow. Mary became a teacher and later married a Mr. Lind and they had two children, Verla and Grant. Mary passed away in 1980 having been a widow for many years. Verla lives at Logan Lake, B.C. Grant passed away in 1970.

Hans never married. He farmed with his father until he joined the army in 1944 or 1945 and was killed in action overseas. Howard drove a truck in Calgary for a number of years. After Hans' death, Howard returned to the farm to help his parents. Jamiesons farmed as well as raised horses and cattle. After his parents' deaths - William in 1957 and Martha in 1963, Howard farmed alone until he moved into Irma. He passed away in 1978. He never married.

Bill and Martha were community minded people. They were good supporters of the United Church. For years Bill was road boss. He was noted for the tall tales he told while the men were eating their noon lunches. They were excellent neighbors, helpful and kind.

Bill Boyd recalls helping the Jamiesons on the farm during the war years when Hans and Howard were away. He helped to make hay, take off the crop or work with livestock.



Al and Ruth Jamison with daughters Brooke and Dawn.

AL AND RUTH JAMISON

Ruth and Al Jamison, and daughters Brooke and Dawn came to Irma in 1975, when they purchased the Scotty Matthew's house. Al accepted a position as French teacher, and Ruth a half-time Business Education position. They spent the next year renovating the house, eventually adding an extension to the south end, and an enclosed front porch.

Al was active in starting a Junior High Boys' Basketball team, Ringette and Jackrabbit Ski Club; he was also involved in the Golf Club, United Church Board and the Kinsella Transit Mix Basketball team. Ruth participated in the Badminton Club, Aerobics, Brownie L.A., though she was probably most well-known for her running and hiking activities.

Originally, Al was from Vulcan, Alberta, where his grandfather homesteaded, and his father was a G.P. Ruth grew up in Vancouver, while her father came from Russell, Manitoba, and her mother from Cumberland, Ontario.

WILLIAM JENKINS

Billie Jenkins was born in Ballymena, County Antrim, Ireland in 1885 and came to this district in 1908 and took a homestead near Jarrow. He worked for the C.P.R. for 30 years retiring in 1948. The next eight years he made his home with Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Archibald and later two years in Irma.

Mr. Jenkins was of a jovial nature and was well known for his Irish wit. He joined the Masonic order in Jarrow in 1921 later transferring his membership to Gratton No.



Mr. Wm. Jamieson, Mary, Mrs. Jamieson, Hans and Verla.

In her account of expenses for the month, the lady of the house was asked to explain an entry marked ESP \$26.98. She replied, "ESP means error some place."

144 Lodge at Irma.
Billie passed away on July 15, 1957, and was buried in Irma cemetery. Billie was a brother to Mrs. John Watson.

Form 51-a
June 25, 11

File No. 1278688

MR. AND MRS. ALBERT JONES

When Albert had finished his stint in the R.C.A.F. he returned to the home farm to take over the farming operations. After the death of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jones, and his uncle, Bill Williams, (who had lived with the family from homestead days) Albert continued to farm. He remained a bachelor for several years. By summer 1968, his half ton truck could be seen often at "the house behind the bank" where the widow Olive Murray lived. They were married on Dec. 7, 1968 and continue to live on the original Jack Jones farm north of Irma.

Albert farmed until 1975, when he decided to turn the farming over to younger men. Albert and Olive are now semi-retired but still plant a sizeable garden, and raise a few chickens and turkeys. They both enjoy camping and fishing, and can be seen often motoring up to some of the lakes with their trailer, for a few days' outing.

MRS. E.J. JONES

I, Nellie Stone, was born in Ilchester, England, in 1881 and spent my early life there. In 1906 I married Albert Pitt in Wales and came to Canada in May, 1907. The McDermids, Frank Fords and William New families, who were my neighbors in Wales, came to Canada with us and later became my neighbors on the homestead.

We spent one year in Edmonton, or Strathcona as South Edmonton was then called. In April of 1908 we filed on the S.E. 1/4 of 18-47-8-W4th and came to the land via Mannville that month. We lived in a tent until we managed to get a log cabin built. Our neighbors at that time were Coultmans and Barkers; Prossers came in shortly afterwards. We lived on the homestead until the winter of 1909-10, when my husband went to Edmonton to work and I accompanied him. I had two children - Fred in 1907 and Annie in 1910. My husband passed away in February of 1910 and in the spring I returned to the homestead with the two children. Mr. W. Prosser, who was my nearest neighbor at that time, put in the crop on the land we had broken.

In 1912 I married E.J. Jones and moved into the Albert district. I had seven children by my second marriage - Alice, Stanley, Albert, Edith, Edgar, Edna and Cyril. I have since resided on the original Jones homestead.

I have been a member of the Buffalo Coulee W.I. for many years and have always sincerely enjoyed their activities and friendship.

NOTE: This was dictated by Mrs. Jones some years before her death. She was happy to be able to live out her life in the home that she had made in Canada. She passed away at her home in January, 1959.

Department of the Interior.

OTTAWA, AUG 24 1911 1911

Sir: Madam.

I have to inform you that a patent for S.E. 1/4 of Section 18 in Township 47 Range 8 West of the 4th Meridian, bearing date the 11th August, 1911, as personal representative of the late Albert Pitt has issued in your name, and that it has been forwarded to the Registrar of the Land Registration District of NORTH ALBERTA who will issue the certificate of title upon receipt of your application to him therefor, and upon payment of the proper fees, if any

For this purpose please place yourself in communication with that official, giving him your full name and your Post Office address.

His address is THE REGISTRAR, Edmonton, Alta.

I am, Sir, Madam
Your obedient servant,
PERLEY G. KEYES,
Secretary.

To Mrs. Nellie Pitt
Edmonton
Alta.

THE E.J. JONES FAMILY

by Edith (Jones) Gower

"Jack" Jones, as he was known by his friends, was born in Brecon, Wales in 1884. In July, 1904, he and his half brother, Bill Williams, left for Canada. They did not tell their family as this was an adventure that they were determined to embark on. They stayed in Ontario to earn money to go further west. They worked at Kinburn, Ontario, for a year and then set off for the west. We don't know much about that journey, only that they arrived in Edmonton in July, 1905.

In September of that same year, the two brothers travelled by wagon to Mannville and located on the S.W. 1/4 and the S.E. 1/4 of 30-47-8-W4th, where they took homesteads. They told us that Mannville was then located one and one-half miles west of the present town, and consisted of a store, a few shacks and a livery barn. They spent the first few nights with Bob Guy, who was then living in a tent on the land north of their homesteads. There was no one else in the district south of Buffalo Coulee, at that time. George Ambler was then living on the north side of the coulee. Incidentally, George was to add the spark of humor needed to stand those hard times. Many are the times that we heard the story of George's attempt at making bannock - their staple diet. No one could eat it so the lads nailed it to the door of his shack.



E.J. Jones, 1909.

Back to the story of "Jack and Bill" - they were busy that fall. They built a log shack on the line between their property so that they both could fulfill the law. They had to live on their homestead for six months of the year. They built a barn too and dug a well that fall. Oats was their first crop, which was harvested in 1907 and was threshed by hand.

The hardest blow in those first years was the winter of 1906-7. It was one of the coldest winters on record and the settlers were not adequately prepared. It was thirty degrees below zero on the thirtieth of October and the snow lasted until May. Still it did not stop those early pioneers, for our parents told us of many important happenings in 1907. In May, the first poll was held in a granary on the Sproule place. That same summer a bridge was built across the Buffalo Coulee. Prior to that time, everyone crossed at the "gumbo crossing" which was near where the "Hays" bridge is now. Mail came by coach to Mannville before the first train came through and was brought to the Salteaux Post Office.

The Albert School was built in 1911, and our father was a member of that first Board along with Herbert Oakley and W.D. Ramsay. He did not stop there but later served as secretary-treasurer for fourteen years for that same school. School was only held in the spring and summer months in those first years.

In 1912, "Jack" married Nellie Pitt, a widow who had been living on her homestead on the S.E. 1/4 18-47-8-W4th. Mother said that community life became a little easier after the school was built. Dances and box socials were held and people had a place to gather.

In the years following, seven children were born - Alice, Stanley, Albert, Edith, Edgar, Edna and Cyril. They all attended that first Albert School.

Our father died in March, 1949, and our mother in January, 1959. Uncle Bill Williams survived them both and died in September, 1961, still on the homestead he loved. Cyril was a pilot in the R.C.A.F. He was lost over Germany in 1945. Since then Alice, Edgar and Edna have passed away. The two Pitt children, Annie and Fred, have died too.

Edith lives in Calgary. Albert lives in the original home place and on Uncle Bill's. Stanley is farming Mrs. Jones' homestead. Fitting that the three homesteads are still in the hands of the descendants.

PERCY JONES FAMILY

Percival Emlyn Jones was born in Illinois, U.S.A. in 1888, the second son of Walter and Martha Jones. In 1905 he came to Alberta with his Father and brothers to file on a homestead, northeast of Viking. In 1906 they moved to their homestead with the family and Percy started freighting from rail-end of Ranfurly, to Viking. Part of the time they used oxen and the alternate trips were made with horses, and they slept under the wagons or sleighs on the nights out on the trail. They had one red ox broken to ride, which they used instead of a saddle horse on trips to town.

During their early days on the farm, Mr. Cap Larson arrived in the yard, having walked across country from his home north of Irma. He bought an ox, gave his word to pay for it in a specified time, and took the ox home. It was subsequently paid for, as agreed, from the proceeds of butter, which Mrs. Cap made and sold.

In 1911, Percy married Emma Thoresen, who had come to Alberta with her family from Minnesota, in 1907. They farmed for six years on Percy's homestead and were hauled out three times. In 1917 they moved to



Percy and Emma Jones.



International dealership of P.E. Jones.

Irma, where Percy took over the draying business, using both horses and mules. In 1919 he began selling Imperial Oil products, and in the twenties, added the I.H.C. agency to his business. Many a farmer was carried financially by Percy in the dirty thirties.

Percy and Emma had one daughter and three sons, one of whom died in infancy. Clifford married Ada Currie and was blessed with three sons and two daughters. He died in 1978. Gary married Eunice Hess of Pennsylvania, and they now reside at Fox Creek, with their three sons and three daughters. Audrey married H.C. "Ole" Nissen and now resides in Irma.

Percy served on the Village Council for many years and managed the Senior Hockey team in the 1930's. Emma joined the Irma Women's Institute the year it was chartered and was a faithful and hard-working member until her passing. Her home was always open to friends and strangers alike, and no one ever left her table hungry. Percy loved animals and raised birds of various species as a hobby in his retirement years.

Percy and Emma passed away in 1971 and 1973 respectively, and are buried in the Irma Cemetery.



Mr. Ryley, Mr. Eaton, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Eaton, Mrs. McFarland, Percy Jones and Mr. McFarland, taken by the river, July 31st, 1939.



Moving Masson's building in with mules.

ROWLAND DUANE JONES

Rowland Duane Jones, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Stan Jones, was born in 1949. I attended the Albert school in 1956 to 1962, grades one to six, then bussed to Irma school. I got my grade twelve, then attended Vermilion Agricultural and Vocational College (now known as Lakeland College) and took one year of business administration. Then I returned to the farm in 1974, buying the Craig quarter. In 1975 I worked as partsman for Massey Ferguson in Camrose.

In 1976 I married Shirley Watson of Swift Current, Saskatchewan. We had a son, Donald William, in 1977. In 1978 I began farming and in 1983 we moved and reside on the original Craig homestead - S.W. 18-47-8-W4th. The Craig house now stands at Schryers.

ALBERT JOHNSON

Lars Albert Johnson was born September 12th, 1881 at Hetland, South Dakota. In 1915 he was united in marriage to Thea Ness. To this union a son, Alvin, was born. The Johnsons moved to the Jarow area in 1918 and farmed there until 1946 when they moved to Irma to live.

Albert was active in church and community affairs. He was a good neighbor and was always willing to lend a helping hand to friends and neighbors. Mr. Johnson passed away at his home in December, 1953.

Alvin married Lily Inkin and for some time operated a dress shop in Irma before moving to Blackfoot, Alberta. They have four children.

Timely Tributes

**Be more generous with your compliments.
Give them freely every day.
Flowers mean more when we can still
Smell their bouquet!**

ALFRED JOHNSON

by Ashley Roth

Alfred Johnson came to the Education Point district in the fall of 1929.

He came from Norway and had farmed in the Pollockville area, before going back to Norway to visit. During his visit there his nephew Otto Solhoug and niece Agnes Solhoug expressed their desires to come to America so they came back with him to the Education Point district, where Alf. obtained a quarter section of land from the C.P.R. and a quarter from Mr. Bert Clelland. He farmed this land until 1936, when he left to go to Calgary, where he lived until his death in 1957. Gordon Herder now owns the land.

Otto Solhoug was employed by the Coultman brothers, until his death in 1933.

Agnes Solhoug married Chester Brown of the Education Point district.

HENNING JOHNSEN

Henning Johnsen was born in Monjom, northern Norway. In 1926 he came to Canada and worked for Oscar Steffenson for three years. During the summer of 1929 Henning worked for Mr. Knudson, Sr. In 1930 he decided to try his hand at farming on his own. He purchased some land from the C.P.R. and cut forty-six acres of brush by hand. His first crop was in 1931 and he harvested one thousand bushels of Garnet wheat. After all expenses were paid he had ninety-two dollars profit. There was one drawback - the taxes were ninety-six dollars so Henning didn't take long to make up his mind to get out of the farming business. He went to work in the bush near Winfield for the winter.

By 1938 he decided to try his hand at farming again and bought the N. 1/2 12-46-10-W4th. In 1966 he sold out to Myron Meyer and bought the Whitbeck house in Irma where he resides today.

For years Henning worked with Harry Meakins doing masonry work.

ROBERT JOHNSON

by Robin Johnson

Robert Carter Johnson (Bob) was born in Wolsingham, England August 14, 1895. He married Alice Armstrong April 30, 1921 and seven years later came to Canada with their two sons Alan and Hugh. Bob purchased land through the Soldier Settlement Plan and took up residence on southeast of 2-48-9.

The first year in Canada was spent working with George Hardy and L. Barss. Bob and Alice lost their son Hugh that same year. 1930 was the beginning of Bob's career with the help of the Soldier Settlement Plan, Bob received a few horses, a cow and allowed so much money to buy farming equipment. Alice gave birth to Robert April 30, the last child born.



Man on the right is Allen Johnson.

Alice, who was an active member of the Albert W.I., died July 27, 1944 and shortly after on October 10 of the same year Bob lost his son, Alan, in a motor-grader accident near Claysmore.

Bob worked as both farmer and road maintainer until he joined the council in 1948. His area at that time extended to Division Two of the Minburn Municipality. Bob held this position until the election of 1956.

In 1952 Bob and Robert purchased the Bill Matthew's farm. Two years later Robert married Dolores Ambler and resided on the farm with Bob. Allan, the first grandchild was born February 16, 1956. Bob left shortly after to return to living in his house on 2-48-9. In 1967 Bob moved to Irma to reside on Lot 5, Block 5, Plan 1560 W which was the old telephone exchange office. He lived in Irma for seven years while Robert and Dolores with their children Allan, Karyn, Holly, Sharon, and Wilma moved to Edmonton. Robert returned to Irma in 1976 to resume farming.



April 14, 1984 - Sharon (Johnson) and Gordon Oracheski's wedding day: Karyn Johnson, Holly (Johnson) Poroencal, Allan Johnson, Wilma Johnson. Seated: Dolores Day, Sharon Oracheski, Robin Johnson.

While living in Irma Bob continued to help farm and would occasionally help Harold Barber in the Pool Hall. During 1974 Bob moved to the Battle River Lodge in Wainwright where he resided for seven years. 1981 Bob moved to the Auxiliary Hospital for two short years. He died January 29, 1983 and was buried beside Alice and Alan in the Mannville cemetery.

Robert Jr. is still on the farm and has two grandchildren Crystal and Meghan, daughters of Allan and Debbie Johnson and Ken and Holly Provencal.

THE VICTOR JOHNSON FAMILY

submitted by Evelyn Johnson

Victor and I moved to Irma in July of 1979. Victor is district manager of the Irma branch of Northwestern Utilities. Victor was born and raised at Kingman, Alberta, but I was born and raised in the Orbindale district north of Irma. Being the eldest daughter of Erle and Elizabeth Prior, it was like being at home again.

I received my education at Orbindale rural school and Irma Rural High School. In 1950, I married Victor Johnson, son of Oscar and Mary Johnson of Kingman, Alberta.

We lived in Wetaskiwin for eight years where four children were born. Warren in 1951, Lon in 1953, Cheryl in 1956 and Laurie in 1958.



Vic and Ev Johnson.

In the fall of 1958 we were transferred to Oyen, Alberta, with Northwestern Utilities where Vic was town agent. Shortly after moving we were saddened by the loss of three-month old Laurie. In 1960 Myrna was born in Oyen.

After twenty and a half years in Oyen we came to Irma. I have many fond memories of being raised on the farm. Memories of my grandparents, William and Martha Prior, John and Margaret McCreadie, aunts, uncles and cousins. The home of Erle and Elizabeth was constantly filled with young and old friends during the years of growing up. Even milking cows out in the open yard rain or shine, shovelling grain in granaries filled to the top, carrying water a quarter of a mile to school, for drinking, through drifts knee deep, are memories that bring a smile.

Our family is scattered over B.C. and Alberta. Warren and wife Heather and two boys live in Sparwood, B.C. and works for Westar (B.C. coal). Lon lives in Calgary and works for Northland Woolco. Cheryl and husband Bob, own and operate the ABC Family restaurant in Kamloops, B.C. Myrna lives in Edmonton and works for Edmonton Wheelchair Co.

SYDNEY JOHNSTON

by Ada Johnston

Sydney was born in 1900 at North Plantagenet, Ontario. In 1912 the family moved to New Ontario now known as Charlton. Sydney worked in lumber mills and Kirkland Lake gold mines before coming to Hardisty in 1919. He worked in the Buffalo Park, Wainwright, for a few months and returned to Ontario. Sydney came back west in 1920 on a harvest excursion and worked during harvest at Kitscoty.

Ada Hill was born at Casselman, Ontario in 1901. Her mother passed away when Ada was seven years old so she was raised by an aunt and uncle at Pendleton, Ontario. When Ada was sixteen years old she came west to live with her father, William Hill who lived in the Lewisville district.



Johnston family. Back Row: Lawrence and Ivan. Front Row: Phyllis, Ada and Sydney.

Sydney and Ada were married in Irma United Church in 1921. Three children were born to them: Lawrence married Margaret Bacon of Irma. He works for Namao Air Base as a heavy duty mechanic. They had two children Wayne (deceased) and Donna.

Ivan was in the army during World War II. He married Joyce Brown of Wembley, England. Ivan has worked as maintenance supervisor at Alberta Government Telephones and other places. He lives on an acreage at Thorsby and is semi-retired. They have three children Carol, Brian and Terri.

Phyllis married Wayne King of Hardisty and they settled on the Percy Wright farm at Jarrow (story elsewhere).

Sydney and Ada spent the first fifty years of their married life farming in the Strawberry Plains district where their children took their public schooling. In 1972 they retired to Irma. They celebrated their sixty-second wedding anniversary in November of 1983. They enjoy life in their own home.

They had seven grandchildren and at the present time have seven great-grandchildren. Sydney and Ada have belonged to the Elks and Royal Purple at Irma for twenty-seven years. Ada has belonged to the Strawberry Plains W.I. for twenty-seven years also.

Sydney passed away March, 1985.

F.C. JOHNSTONE

by Orril (Fischer) Darling

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnstone came to the Irma district from Edmonton about 1909 and homesteaded the N.W. 36-46-9. Will Elliott, Dick Elliott and Mr. J.H. Elliott also had homesteads on the same section. Mr. Frank Johnstone drove oxen at first to work his land and later changed to horses.



Fischer homestead - 1913. Back Row: Alice Fischer, Charles Fischer, Frank Johnstone, Aubrey Fischer, George Fischer. Middle Row: Dorothy Johnstone, Adda Johnstone, Marian Fischer, Ralph Fischer, Margaret Fischer. Front Row: Orril Fischer, George Fischer and Madeline Fischer.

Small boy explaining broken window to a policeman, "I was cleaning my slingshot and it went off."

As they had no children of their own, Mr. and Mrs. Johnstone (Uncle Frank and Aunt Addie) adopted a daughter, Dorothy. The Johnstones were interested in community affairs and Uncle Frank was one of the first members of the Board of Education Point School and was the one to suggest its name. He also helped build the United Church, then the Methodist Church, in Irma and served on the church board for some time. Occasionally he served as a lay minister at church services in outlying districts. Aunt Addie, a sister to A.A. Fischer, was quite musical and she and Mr. William King added much to the church services at Elliott's with their vocal duets. She was also a talented artist and did many beautiful oil paintings which hung for years on the walls of their home. One of these paintings in its original frame is a prized possession of Orril Darling and hangs on the wall of her living room.

As most pioneers, the Johnstones milked cows, raised chickens and pigs, and tilled the soil, encountering many of the ups and downs that others did. Tragedy struck this family when the flu epidemic came and in 1919 Uncle Frank died of pneumonia and was laid to rest in the Irma Cemetery.

Aunt Addie and Dorothy rented the farm and went to Edmonton where Aunt Addie worked as a light housekeeper and companion to older people and Dorothy continued her education. Dorothy worked as a stenographer for some time in Edmonton and then she and her mother returned to Irma. Mrs. Johnstone helped out at the Reuben Patterson home and also helped care for Mrs. Chamberlain at the Tom Yarr home.

Dorothy went to Manitoba where she had relatives and met and married Carl Brunskill there. They came to Irma and lived on the Johnstone farm for a while but returned to Manitoba to live.

Mrs. Johnstone returned to Edmonton where she continued to live until her death in 1932. She was laid to rest beside her husband in the Irma Cemetery. The homestead farm was sold to the Herders who lived there for a short time but built a new home on a neighboring quarter, where Gordon Herder now lives.

KASTEN FAMILY HISTORY

Heinrich (Henry) Kasten:	1877-1963
Robert Kasten:	1885-1974
Ida Kasten:	1888-1953

The Kasten Bros. farm was founded by Henry and Robert Kasten, immigrants from Germany prior to World War I.

Henry and Robert came from a farming community near the city of Hemeln, locale of the Pied Piper story. Henry was trained as a dairyman and emigrated to Hoboken, New Jersey in 1907 where he worked for nearly a year in a dairy. While there he received letters from Karl Pfeiffer, a former neighbor in Germany who had homesteaded in Alberta, urging him with glowing accounts of waist high wheat, to come west. In 1908 he came to Alberta, arriving in Sedgewick and walked to his homestead on the SE 13-45-10. Late that year he and Fritz Rupp built the first room of a log house that is still standing.



Ida and Robert Kasten and Henry, Junior.

Henry broke the necessary acreage of prairie sod to prove up his homestead using a team of oxen. Subsequently he convinced his younger brother Robert to join him in 1912.

Robert had apprenticed as a storekeeper. By the time he arrived, a second room had been added to the log house. In the early days the brothers raised a large herd of horses as part of the farm operations. In 1917 they had the two-storey frame house erected that stands just to the south of "the old house."

In late 1921 Robert returned to Berlin, Germany, where he married Ida Hillebrand in March, 1922. Ida was born in Bremen and worked in her brother-in-law's canning factory in Berlin during the war. The couple returned to the farm immediately and thus Ida was faced in the new land with the spring seeding season. A son, Henry, was born to the couple in 1923.

The original homestead farm was enlarged in stages by the purchase, one by one, of adjoining and nearby quarters. The quarters are still known by the names of the original owners, as follows:

Guiltner's	(for Lionel Guiltner)	- NE 24-45-10
Arnold's	(for Arnold Christenson)	- SE 18-45-9
Pfeifer's	(for Karl Pfeifer)	- NE 13-45-10
Ziemlika's	(for Albert Ziemlika)	- SW 18-45-9
Ray's	(for Ray Fuder)	- NE 18-45-9
Fritz's	(for Fritz Rupp)	- NW 13-45-10

It is gratifying to note that Lionel Guiltner and Arnold Christenson are still with us today.

The farm was operated as a mixed farm continuously until 1944 when Robert and Ida retired to Edmonton and Henry Sr. retired to Vancouver. Since that time lessees have been the Bethges, the Dan Taylors, the Badrys and, to the present, Don Creasy.

Robert, Henry and Ida Kasten have passed on.



Henry and Robert Kasten around 1950.

FRANK AND CONNIE KELLAR

Frank, the eldest son of Pete and Mamie Kellar was born at High River, Alberta, July 10th, 1918. They moved to a farm near Rosebud, Alberta, where Frank went to a school called Rabbit Hill. Later his dad worked at building roads so the family was moved into the village of Rosebud where Frank continued his schooling.

In 1929 due to drought and dust storms, the family moved to Wainwright. They came by wagon, cook house pulled by horses and an old Hartt Parr tractor. They travelled across the old Buffalo Park, arriving in Wainwright December 1st, 1929. After staying in Wainwright for awhile, they moved to Fabyan where they farmed for five years. Frank went to school at Fabyan. He drove four horses in 1935 when the old highway was being built at Fabyan. Their final move was to the Orbindale district in 1936 where Frank continued to farm with his dad.

In 1946 he married Connie Burton, third daughter of Alf and Edith Burton. Her parents homesteaded in the Alma Mater district in 1906. Along with her brothers and sisters there were always plenty of chores to do. Connie went to school at Alma Mater. They walked to school two miles and did the janitor work at school. Connie finished her high school in the village of Irma.

Frank and Connie had four children, three daughters and one son. They took their early schooling at Orbindale and Albert schools. When the country schools were closed they finished their schooling in Irma.

Una, the oldest girl, continued her education at Vermilion Agriculture School. She met and married Bill Nicoll while working in Edmonton. They have three children. They now reside at Alberta Beach where they have an upholstery business.

Judy, the second girl finished her education at Vermilion Agriculture School. She married Alf Fleming, a farmer, and they live in the Albert district north of Irma. They have six children.

Faye, the third girl married Ernest Pasay of Redwater. He works for Texaco Oil.

Dale, the only son of Frank and Connie, farms in the Orbindale district.

Frank and Connie are still active in farming.

To get the best of an argument - keep out of it.



Kellar family. Back Row: Mary Beck, Frank, Ruby Taylor, Lawrence, John. Front Row: Pete, Mamie, Annamae.

PETER KELLAR

by Ruby Taylor

Peter was born in North Dakota, U.S.A. and moved to Alberta in 1911. Mamie was born near High River, Alberta. Peter and Mamie Fisk were married in 1915.

We lived on a farm near High River until 1919, then got a farm north of Mayeppa. The crop was totally hailed out in 1923. The spring of 1924 we moved to Rosebud and were dried out in 1929. In the fall of 1929 we moved by horses and wagon across country. It took us ten days to get to Wainwright. We got a farm north of Fabyan that spring and were there until 1936. We moved on to a farm northeast of Irma in the Orbindale district. We moved into town in 1961 and Peter passed away in the spring of 1971. I lived alone until 1979 and then moved into Chacutenah Manor. We have six children.

Frank married Connie Burton and live on a farm northeast of Irma. They have three daughters and one son.

Ruby married Babe Prior. They have two daughters and one son. Babe passed away. Ruby was a widow for several years, then married Allen Taylor. They live in Fabyan.

John married Eileen Layden. They have two daughters and one son. They live near Innisfail.

Mary married Fred Beck and they have two daughters and one son. They live in the U.S.A.

Ann married Gordon Peterson. They have two sons and one daughter and live in Edmonton.

Lawrence married Nina Herder. They have two daughters and one son. They live on the home place northeast of Irma.

WILLIAM R. KELM

by W. Kelm

William R. Kelm was born August 29, 1909 in Ottertail, Minnesota. he moved to Fabyan, Alberta with divorced mother and two brothers, Herbert and Robert in 1917, to live with his uncle, Ed Bunderman in the Roseberry district of Irma - the Willerton farm now. Hard times after the end of the First World War made it necessary for the family to move around to various farms in the area, doing cooking, housekeeping, and many farm chores. They ended up living with widower G.A. Sisson and his children, Alice and George. George died from influenza during the epidemic in 1920. Mrs. Kelm and Mr. Sisson were married in 1923 and Jim Sisson was born to them in 1924. In 1926, they moved to Edmonton and Bill attended his third year of high school at Edmonton Technical H.S.

In 1927, Mr. Sisson took an engineering position with a construction firm in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The family moved to Holden, Massachusetts and Bill graduated from Holden High School in 1928. That summer, the family moved to Pittsburgh and Bill attended Carnegie Institute of Technology for one semester but had to leave because of lack of money. He went to Providence, Rhode Island where he entered the apprentice course at Brown and Sharpe Mfg. Co. in 1929. This was a four year course but because of shorter working hours during the depression, it required six years to complete and he graduated in 1935.

In the fall of 1935, he married Catherine Henry. Two daughters were born to them: Beverly in 1941 and Judy in 1943. Their first home was a tenement in Providence; and then, in 1950, the family moved to Chepachet, a small country village in Rhode Island. In 1962, Catherine Kelm died and the family bought a smaller home in the neighbouring town of North Scituate. Beverly graduated from the University of Rhode Island in June, 1962 and Judy in June of 1964. Both earned degrees in education and music.

In 1963, Bill married Winifred Baker, a long-time friend of the family. In 1974, Bill retired from Brown and Sharpe after 45 years as a machinist estimator. Bill's half-brother Jim lives in Cincinnati, Ohio and his brothers, Herb and Bob are retired and live in Arizona and Missouri, respectively.

Win and Bill are both busy working at hobbies and doing community service work in their church, the Grange, and other fraternal organizations. Getting a little tired of shovelling snow and driving on icy roads, they may end up in Florida, some day soon.

HUGH KENNEDY

Hugh and Rose Kennedy were born in Ireland - Rose in County Caven in 1877. Rose and Hugh were married in Glasgow, Scotland in 1907. To this union were born two children Ann and James.

The Kennedys came to Canada in 1924 and purchased the Ellis place NE 31-46-10 in the Ross district. Ann and James attended Ross school.

Life was hard for these early settlers as they tried to



Hugh and Rose Kennedy's 50th Anniversary in 1957.

adjust to the ways of the prairies. Like most farmers of the times they milked cows, raised pigs and cattle and farmed with horses. Rose walked for miles to find the milk cows or to pick berries.

Ann attended normal school and became a teacher, but like many new teachers of the thirties had difficulty to get a job. Ann married David Brebner and they had two daughters Christina and Carol who live in the Edmonton area. Ann's husband passed away and she later married Bill Brown of Viking. Ann passed away in the early seventies.

James left school and worked for various farmers in the Irma district. He makes his home in Winnipeg.

In 1957 Rose and Hugh celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. They retired to Wainwright in 1959. Rose passed away in 1962 and after her death Hugh moved into Vialta Lodge where he passed away in 1969. Both are buried in the Irma Cemetery.

JAMES KENNEDY CLAN

During the first few years of this century, many families, including the Jim Kennedy family, immigrated to Canada and to the Ross School District north of Irma. Jim Kennedy, his wife Mary, and son Jim Jr. came from Ireland to this land of opportunity. Times were very difficult for everyone at this time and this family was no exception. During years of homesteading, many friends were made; Larsons, Archibalds, Petersons, Meyers, Nashs, and many others as years went on.

Mary Kennedy was very musical and passed this gift on to her son who would listen to his mother sing and then would learn to play the song on a violin. Many happy hours were spent in music throughout the years. Jim Kennedy Sr. took part in World War I. Jim Jr. and his mother cared for the home while he was away. Several children of the ward were part of this home. Mrs. Eugene Meyer of Irma spent several years in the Kennedy home, as did Walter Bonn, Johnny Zariski, Bill Schultz, and another Mary.

Mary Kennedy's health was poor and in the early 1930's she passed on.

Jim Jr. married Mary Hubman in 1929. They lived near the home place for several years, before moving in late 1937 to the Sunny Brae District east of Irma, to live with Mr. Hubman who was living alone by now.

Jim Kennedy Sr. married a lady who lived in the Kinsella district - Mrs. Scholthorp - and in the 1940's he moved to Edmonton where he operated a steamboiler at Ashdowns Hardware. Jim Sr. had received papers for this business before he had left Ireland. In the 50's he married again, a lady from Tofield way, Mrs. Jane Latam. They enjoyed old age together. Jim Sr. passed away in the late 1950's. His life was very difficult but very colorful. Being a "Wild Irishman", Grandad often told us stories about throwing stones at a schoolmaster's hat until it fell off. This happened after trouble in the classroom. There were other similar stories of his schooldays. Another story, as told by a niece, was with the help of his brother, Hugh, they borrowed the organ from the United Church the night before the official opening of the Catholic Church. Many questions were asked about the organ that was at the Catholic Church for the opening but wasn't there afterwards.



Jim Kennedy family at the farm about 1947-48. Jack, Jim, Marney, Mary and Doreen.

Jim Jr. was a quieter type person. He spent some years as sparring partner for "Curly Kid Archibald", a life-long friend. He enjoyed sports and participated in many.

Music was very important to Jimmy Jr. One night a violinist was playing at a concert in town and bragged that if anyone could name a song he couldn't play, he'd pay him or her twenty dollars. Jimmy asked him to play some song he'd learned from his mother. The man in concert didn't know it, so asked Dad (Jimmy) if he could hum it. Dad said, "I'll play it for you." He did and went home twenty dollars richer, big money in the early days. Jim played for many dances in the Irma area. For many years, an orchestra consisting of Ernie Rae, Evaline Pyle, and Jim Kennedy was very popular. The memories of many events are still told by Ernie Rae.

The Wainwright Town Band was also a very important part of Jim's life. He was a member for many years until poor health forced him to discontinue.

The union of Jim Kennedy and Mary Hubman produced three children: Marney, Jack, and Doreen.



Grandma and Grandpa Kennedy - James Sr. about 1950.



Marney and Jack Kennedy about 1945.

Times were still pretty tough during the thirties I guess. I can't even remember any bad times. I always had a comfortable home and lots of food. To parents trying very hard to supply ample for a growing family must have been very frustrating at times. Lots of music continued during our growing-up years, as well as ball games and horseback riding.

Mom and Dad worked very hard and were able to enjoy life a bit easier in the later years. Jim had failing health and passed on when he was 70 years old in January, 1969.

Mary lived on the farm for a few years, but moved to Wainwright to be a resident of the Battle River Lodge, where she's enjoying good health and visits from many friends. She spends many hours caring for less fortunate folks at the lodge, as well as crocheting and taking care of the flower gardens in the summer months.

Marney married Harley Barss and lives north of Irma. Refer to Barss History.

After many years of driving for other trucking companies, Jack formed his own trucking company, known as Jack's Trucking. Jack married Susan Lee-McNeil, daughter of Kitty and Bud McNeil, and had a lovely little girl, Patty, a sister for Christina who was older. Jack only enjoyed a few years of family life with his wife and daughter, as he passed away at the age of forty. Susan and the girls make their home at Wetaskiwin.

Doreen attended McTavish Business College and worked in Edmonton and Wainwright as a stenographer for a few years. She married Dave Schuboda who was and still is employed with A.G.T. Dave hailed from

Edmonton. They have two boys, Jim and Todd. The family is very sports-minded. Dave is coaching the Jr. B Bisons this season at Wainwright. Both Jim and Todd enjoy hockey and many other sports.



Grandma Kennedy with Jack's girls, Christina and Patricia in 1976.



Dave, Doreen, Jim and Todd Schuboda in 1976.



Mr. and Mrs. John Zariski in 1968 (John was a foster child of the Kennedys).

THE KENNEDY STORY

by Mrs. Jenkins (Daisy)

John Kennedy, wife Margaret, daughters Daisy, Nan and Hetty, also Mrs. Kennedy's younger sister Hetty Gemm arrived in Jarrow in September 1914 from Ayrshire, Scotland. We were met at the station by Mr. Angie McGregor. We spent several days at the McGregor home until dad could repair the abandoned Frazer house. There we spent our first winter in Canada. We enjoyed the hospitality of our neighbours, the Skori, McGregor and Austin families.

Jarrow in 1914 was a thriving town. It had two stores, a hotel, bank, lumberyard, creamery, blacksmith shop, garage, school, church, livery stable, station and two grain elevators.

Our homestead was situated on the N.W. 36-45-11. Here during the summer of 1915 Dad, being a carpenter, built our home. To a family not acquainted with the rugged life we faced many hardships. Early pioneers were endowed with special skills. They met hard tasks with determination and goodwill toward men; neighbor helped neighbor when help was needed. We were fortunate to have such friendly neighbors, the McGregors and Skori families to the north and the Clarkes to the south. There was a great deal of open C.P.R. land around us and abandoned homesteads such as the Frazer and Thompson places. Metropolitan School was two and a quarter miles away, we walked with our friends the Skori children. In those days school was held during the summer months. Teachers were obtained from Edmonton and Ontario. These teachers taught during the summer to supplement their University careers. Our first teacher was Miss Corigan, how we wished we could keep her the year around.

Metropolitan was a typical one-room schoolhouse furnished with double desks, pot bellied stove, cloak rooms where our water and wash basin stood. The janitor usually supplied the water but I do remember one summer taking turns carrying water from a well a quarter of a mile south. We had a well stocked library of books and maps.

Miss Asp taught during the summers 1916 and 1917. Mrs. Wallace Clarke opened school in 1918 but it was closed due to the flu outbreak. Dad became school board chairman and urged the district to keep the school open year round. Miss Hyde from Edmonton became our teacher in 1920-21. She was very energetic and did much to improve the school. Departmental exams were then written in grade VIII prior to high school entry. In my class were Earl Cullum, Dolly Groner, May Stauffer, and myself. Under Miss Hyde's excellent teaching we all passed our exams. I then left Metropolitan to attend high school in Wainwright. I am indeed proud to say we three girls became teachers and taught in Jarrow, Irma and Wainwright schools before teaching in the city of Edmonton until our retirement.

We have all contributed to our Canadian Society and feel much of our success dates back to the "Little Red School House" where we spent our early school days.

AUSTIN KING

Austin King was born in Iowa in 1880. In 1905 he came with his widowed father and brothers to the Bawlf area. He married Bessie Bergquist and to this union were born eight children.

After several moves, they settled in the Silver Lane district in 1922 and the older children attended school there. They left this area in 1929 to take up homesteads at Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. Austin died there in 1945. Bessie lived at Rocky Mountain House until her death in 1965.

The oldest boy, Homer, lives in Seattle, Washington. George returned to Silver Lane district and lives there today. Clyde, Doris, Gordon and Lloyd live at Rocky Mountain House. Lois lives at Edberg and Pat is deceased.



Back Row: Gordon, Lois, Clyde, Doris, George, Homer. Front Row: Lloyd, Norman King.

GEORGE KING FAMILY

George King was born September 13th, 1909 in Daysland hospital. His parents made their home around Hardisty and Bawlf from 1909 to 1915, then moved by covered wagon to Scobey, Montana. The children attended school there.

In 1922 they moved north of Hardisty to Silver Lane district where the children attended school. In 1929 Austin King then moved his family to Rocky Mountain House where he and his three eldest sons, Homer, George and Clyde took up homesteads. The boys worked in the bush in winter, but during the spring George and Homer came back to Hardisty and Irma to work.

George met Ethel Pewtress from south of Hardisty in the Crickledale district. They were married in 1934 and went to Rocky Mountain House to live on the homestead. During the fourteen years they farmed and operated a sawmill. Three boys were born out there, Verne in 1936, Wayne in 1939 and Merle in 1946.

In 1947 they moved back to Hardisty and bought Rube Hardings land - N.E. 31-45-9-W4th. Verne and Wayne attended Fullview school (Mrs. Darkes as teacher). Later going to Hardisty. In 1953 George purchased more land in Silver Lane district S.W. 9-44-9-W4th. The boys then attended Irma school.

After leaving school Verne worked on oil rigs and such, returning home to take up farming with his dad. He married Yvonne McKnight of Fort St. John.

Wayne spent ten years in the Air Force. He married Phyllis Johnston of Irma. They came back and took up farming west of Irma. They have two children, Jeannie and Lee.

Merle graduated from Irma and went to Edmonton to take up electrical wiring. He married Ida Devey of Hardisty. He too came back and took over some of his dad's land. They have two sons Ronald and Brian.

After graduating Wendy went to Edmonton and took more schooling, then worked as an accountant and secretary. She met Hugo Solano, a welder. They married and have two children, Christina and Adrian.

Connie graduated from Irma school, went to N.A.I.T. and took a respiratory course. She worked in the University Hospital for two years and met Eric Muller. They married and have a son Corey and live in Vermilion. Eric is district representative for Betz Incorporated, a Chemical company.

George and Ethel built a new home on the N.E. 8-44-9-W4th and enjoy their retirement.



Back Row: Merle, Wendy, Wayne, Connie, Verne. Seated: Ethel and George.

NORMAN KING FAMILY

by Joy King

Norman King came west from Ontario with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William King and two brothers Cecil and Lance in 1909. They settled on their farm the N. 1/2 8-46-8-W4th.

Norman went on to British Columbia where he freighted steel on the Skeena River. He also drove a doctor by dog sled from a Methodist Mission at Hazelton in northern B.C. before returning to Alberta in 1914.

Prudence Smith came from Ontario in 1912 and taught school at Roseberry. She lived with her brother Lafayette before going to board with the King family. Lafayette lived where Frank Crabb lives on the S.E. 2-46-8-W4th.

Prudence and Norman fell in love and were married in 1915. They had filed on a homestead the N. 1/2 24-45-8-W4th and lived there for a number of years before moving out near Fabyan on the S.E. 19-45-7-W4th.

They had six children, Ralph, Esther, Norman, Reginald, Harold and John. Norman died at the age of five. John was killed in a motor accident in 1965 at age thirty-seven.

Ralph married Joy Adams in 1940 and they live on the N.E. 30-45-7-W4th. Ralph and Joy had three children, Ronald, Patricia and Norman. Norman died in 1972. Ron and his wife Merilyn (McAfee) live in Wainwright and have two sons, Glen and Allan. Patricia lives north of Fabyan with her husband, Allan Hartley and her two children, Sandra and Bob. Norman's wife, Sharon (Reid) lives in Wainwright as do her sons James and Trevor.

Esther married Colonel James Stone and had five children, Shelley, Moira, Victoria, James and Michael. Moira died at age seven and Jimmy at almost one year old. Esther and Jim now live in Victoria, B.C. Shelly and her husband Stephen Bouska and three children Kenneth, Rachel and Katherine live in Edmonton. Vicki and her husband Brian Shinamon and two daughters Kristine and Jennifer live in Fort McMurray. Michael lives in Vancouver.

Reginald and his wife Fern live at Fabyan on the N.E. 18-45-7-W4th. They have five children Cheryl, Philip, Jocelyn, Terry and Rebecca. Cheryl and her daughter Fern live in Mannville; Philip and his wife Bobbie at Fabyan; Joselyn in Vermilion and Terry and Rebecca at home.

Harold and his wife Gladys live in Wainwright. They have three children, Sharon, Kenneth and Charles. Sharon and her husband Peter Pashko live on the N.E. 4-45-7-W4th with their three daughters Leanna, Monica and Juanita. Ken runs the Wainwright Auto Supply. He and his wife Pauline (Fletcher) have four girls Michele, Shandra, Nadine and Kendra. Charles, his wife Barbara and infant son live in Tucson, Arizona.

Irene, John's wife, lives in Edmonton with two of her sons Douglas and Tracy. Brian, her middle son lives in Vancouver.

Norman and Prudence worked hard through the years and enjoyed life fully. The King threshing machine went from farm to farm getting everyone's crop off.

Norman had not been well for years because of diabetes. He died a young man of thirty-nine in 1929. Prudence lived to the ripe old age of eighty-five and died in 1975. They are buried in the Irma cemetery.

WAYNE KING

Wayne was born in Rocky Mountain House and lived there until 1947 when he moved with his parents, George and Ethel King to the Silver Lane district, south of Irma. In 1956 Wayne joined the Air Force and spent nine years



Lee King, Darrel Mattern, Phyllis, Jeanne and Wayne.



Will and Lottie King.

stationed in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. In 1960 Wayne married Phyllis Johnston, of the Irma district. Two children, Jeannie and Lee were born to them. Wayne was released from the Air Force in 1965 and worked in the Wainwright area until August of 1966 when he moved onto his own farm at Jarrow - the farm formerly owned by Percy and Ethel Wright. They built a new house and still reside on this farm. Wayne purchased a school bus in 1978 and is driving the route north and west of Irma. Phyllis works part time in the Viking Hospital. Jeannie graduated from Irma High School in 1979, took two years at N.A.I.T. in business administration and is presently employed by Globe Envelopes in Edmonton. Jeannie married Darrel Mattern in September 1983 and they are living in Edmonton. Lee graduated from High School in 1981 and has worked at a number of different jobs since.

Wayne and Phyllis are active members of Kinsella B.P.O. Elks and Royal Purple Lodges. Wayne also acted as a leader of the Irma 4-H Beef Club. Jeannie took figure skating with the Irma Club. Lee was an avid hockey player in minor hockey league.

In 1980 Wayne rented his land to Dale Tomlinson and has taken a mechanics job at Median Automotives in Irma.

WILLIAM KING

by Lance King

In the winter of 1909 and 1910 William Henry King and wife Lottie Isabel, left the farm at Canfield, Ontario, to come west, believing it would be beneficial for their three sons, Norman, Cecil and Lance. They adopted a niece, Ruth Breckon. In late March they had a sale, keeping several head of purebred Holstein cows. They sold the farm and loaded household goods in one car of the Grand Trunk Railroad, and livestock in another, to start the long trip to Alberta.

The Battle River bridge had been built the previous year. The station agent at Canfield had a son who was dispatcher at Wainwright. On their arrival, he had a crew take the cars to Farrell's crossing. At that time there was no station at Irma, except a made-over boxcar. The agent at that time, Don McCready, was later moved to Jasper. He had homesteaded near Grover Arnold on the Mannville side of the correction line.

On their arrival at Irma, they moved the stock and goods to H.W. Love's place, Section 5-46-8-W4th. Mrs. Love and Lottie were sisters. Mr. King bought the N. 1/2 8-46-8-W4th and soon moved there to have a house and barn built.



Mary, Betty, Alma, Lance, Bill and Mildred.

He farmed until the youngest son married in 1920, then he had a sale of purebred Holsteins and returned to Ontario, living in Dunville. On his return to the farm in 1924, he had a house built in Irma on the north end of Main Street. Mr. King was councilor for township 46-8-W4th as there was a municipal office in Irma at that time. He was also police magistrate until the time of his sudden death during Christmas week 1932. Lottie returned for a visit to Ontario and on coming back to Alberta, lived in Edmonton until her death in 1953.

Lance married Helen E. Day from Newark, New Jersey, U.S.A. in 1926. Lance served as enumerator for elections. They retired from the farm in 1955 and moved to Edmonton. Helen passed away in 1967. They had five children, four daughters and one son. The daughters, Mildred, Mary, Alma and Norma all reside in Edmonton. The son, Lance Jr. (Bill) still lives on the farm with his wife, Helen and their three sons and one daughter. All of Lance's children attended Alma Mater school, of which I was trustee, also one term at Irma High school.

William King was the leader of the Choral Society. He and Mrs. King made a great musical contribution to the community. In the early years Mr. King with Jack Tate and Mr. Schon sang in the Irma Church choir. Carrie Toll was secretary of the Choral Society.

ARTHUR SCOTT KNAPP

Mr. Knapp was born in Prescott, Ontario and came to Irma, Alberta in 1906. Later he homesteaded at Kinsella and moved to Hanna in 1925 to manage the Hanna Co-operative store. For fifteen years he had been employed in the Civil Service at the Hanna Court House.

Mrs. Janet Boyd of Jarrow was one of his daughters. Mr. Knapp passed away on February 6th, 1951 at Hanna, Alberta

THE GEORGE GORDEN KNOWLES FAMILY NW 30-45-8 W4

George Gorden Knowles came to Canada from Trelusivell St. Gluiveas R.D England in 1914 on the RMS Cymric (White Star Line) ship. The saying in the East was, "go West young man go West." So they came to Irma, Alberta and started the George Gorden Knowles homestead on NW 30-45-8.

On May 6, 1915 his wife Amelia Vickery Knowles and small son set sail from Liverpool to join her husband. They came over when the Lusitania was wrecked as they saw pieces of the ship and bodies in the water.

Like everyone else they had many hardships. Beside their son Sydney who came from England they had two daughters Kathleen Edith and Doris Agnes.

Geo. Knowles passed away in 1959. Amelia Knowles in 1974. Sydney Knowles was killed on Highway 14 just outside of Irma in 1974.

The land is still in the family as it is now owned by their daughter Doris, Mrs. John Barss of Wainwright.

THOMAS L. KNOWLES

Thomas Llewelyn Knowles was born in Cornwall, England and came to Canada just before the turn of the century. After a couple of years in Ontario he moved west and settled in the Irma area where he farmed with oxen. After finding his land, Mr. Knowles walked one hundred miles to Edmonton to file his claim, then to Fort Saskatchewan to buy a team of oxen and finally to Vegreville where he acquired a cart. After arriving home from his two hundred and fifty mile jaunt he built a home. In 1937 the Knowles family moved to a farm in the Uncas district (near Edmonton) where Mr. Knowles remained until his death. Mrs. Knowles died in 1942. They had two sons and two daughters; Tom, Richard, Dorothy and Regena.

ALBERT AND MARIE KNUDSON

Albert was born in DeSmet, South Dakota in February, 1897. He came to the Irma district with his parents in 1916, and lived with them southwest of Irma until 1925 when he married Marie in Calgary. Albert and Marie moved back to Irma in 1927 but later took a homestead at Flatbush.

In 1929 they sold their homestead and moved back to Irma where they purchased the south half of 33-45-9-W4th from A.G. Walker. This proved a good move as Albert and Marie are still living there after more than fifty years and are still farming.

Marie raised turkeys, milked cows and helped with all aspects of farm work. As a side-line, Albert and Marie graded roads for years. Marie drove the "70" tractor and Albert operated the grader.



Marie Knudson standing with a friend, Florence Skeet.



Albert Knudson when he was still with his folks.

CHRIS KNUDSON

Chris Knudson was born June 22, 1886 and moved to Irma from Minnesota in 1909. He took over his homestead in the Coal Springs district which his brother, Martin, had filed for him by proxy in 1908. For years Chris was the secretary of the Coal Springs school. He was the first in the district to own a camera with which he took many interesting pictures of pioneer days. He developed these pictures himself.

Chris, along with several neighbors, purchased a Mogul tractor and an Ottman Taylor separator and this was known as the "Company Threshing Outfit" for many years.

Ina came to the district in 1906 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.B. Steele and settled on a farm east of Irma. She received her early education at Roseberry and took her high school in Ottawa as the family had come from Ontario. On her return to Irma she worked for H.W. Love in the Co-op store.

In 1916 Chris and Ina were married and they lived on a farm in the Coal Springs district. Two children, Aletha and Arthur, were born to this union. Chris passed away in 1920.



Chris Knudson self portrait by squeezing air bulb and hose to shutter release of his folding bellows. Kodak No. 122 postcard size negative which he developed himself. His was the first camera in the area and he took many early photographs.

In 1923 Ina became postmistress in Irma, a position she held until 1956. For her long and devoted service, she received recognition from the Queen and a badge of honor from the Canadian Postmasters' Association. During her life she was a member of Rebecca Lodge and L.O.B.A.

In 1960 she married James Hedley. Aletha trained for a nurse and became District Health nurse. Later she took her teacher's training and taught music and home economics in Irma school until her death in 1974. Aletha married Albert Glasgow and to this union were born four children, Margaret, David, Jimmy and Allan.



Art and Marion Knudson and sons Cyril and Roy.

Arthur helped his mother in the Post Office and upon her retirement became Postmaster. He married Marion Carrington in 1945 and they had two boys, Cyril and Roy. Later the family moved to Vancouver where Art worked with the Post Office until ill health forced him to retire.

James Hedley passed away in 1960 and Mrs. Hedley passed away in 1962.

FRED KNUDSON

Fred Knudson was born in the States in 1893. In 1916 Fred and his father came to Canada in two immigrant cars. They left Minnesota March 23rd, 1916 and arrived March 27th.

There was very little snow when they arrived so they hauled their furniture and machinery out to the farm on wagons. Coming through Saskatchewan the snow was over the railroad fence. Life was not easy spending four days riding in a boxcar with horses and cattle. They had to milk the cow and feed the calf, then wash in ice water.

Annie Vik came in March, 1917 to teach the Coal Springs school which she taught for six years. Fred and Annie were married December 25th, 1917 in the Knudson home. Pastor Hoversten came from Ryley by train and brother Albert met him with team and cutter, tipping him into the snow during the trip. It was forty-five degrees below zero.

Fred purchased his farm from Mrs. Haugen and her brother J.N. Klonteig, both pioneers in the district. The home place had been the homestead of Arthur Peterson, a cousin of Elva Spring.

Fred and Annie were great supporters of Sharon Lutheran Church. Fred was a carpenter and he and his brother built many houses in the Irma area. He staunchly supported the Co-op store.

After livery barns were not needed, Fred bought a portion of the Irma Livery Barn and dismantled it board by board and rebuilt it on his own farm, where it is standing today.

Annie passed away in 1951. In later years Fred married Eva Atkinson and they lived in Irma for several years. Since Eva's death, Fred continues to live in Irma where he enjoys company dropping in.

In 1959 Jack McKay bought Fred's land and is farming it today.

HALSTEN KNUDSON

by Mabel Reitan

Halsten Knudson emigrated from Norway in 1880, at the age of twenty-one.

He came to Wisconsin where he worked in the lumber mills.

In 1883 he married Sophie Stenson. They moved to De Smet, South Dakota, where they homesteaded and lived in a sod house the first years, later building a frame house.

Five of their children were born in South Dakota, Chris, Martin, Minnie, Fred and Albert. Hattie was born in Washington and Mabel was born after they moved to Minnesota. They lived there eleven years, then moved to Irma, Alberta in 1916. They built a home and lived on the

farm until they passed away, in 1947 and 1949.

Their sons and daughters married and farmed in the Irma district. Mabel Reitan still lives on the old home place.

MARTIN KNUDSON FAMILY

by Wayne Pendleton

The Knudson story has its origins in Norway. Martin Knudson, who settled in the Sharon area southwest of Irma, was the third child of seven born to Halstein Knudson and Patrina Stenson, both of whom were born in Norway. They immigrated separately to the United States where they met and married in North Dakota.

Martin, born on March 5th, 1888, came to Canada in 1908 to homestead near Sedgewick. He later moved to the half section that became the family farm across the coulee from Sharon Lutheran Church. His parents together with his brothers and sisters also moved into the area.

In 1911 Martin Knudson and Ethel Fuder were married, with five children resulting from the union: Merle, Evelyn, Clarence, Helen and Melvin. Evelyn and Clarence failed to survive childhood, with Evelyn dying at three weeks and Clarence a victim of diphtheria and meningitis at one and one-half years.

Helen was the first child to marry and start her own family. She married Merlyn Pendleton from Loughheed in 1936. Merlyn was killed in action during World War II after fathering two sons, Lloyd and Wayne. Lloyd died at the age of nine in 1946. During the same year, Helen married Gordon Whidden in a double ceremony with her elder brother, Merle and Dorothy Whidden.

By this time Martin and Ethel had left the home farm to move to Irma. Merle had taken over the farm, where Dorothy and he had two children, Iona and Lyle. Helen and Gordon settled on a half section north of Jarrow. They had two daughters, Gail and Laura; Laura being born just after her father was killed by lightning in 1951.

In the meantime the youngest son, Melvin, had remained with his parents other than for a stint in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He married Elizabeth Fucsko



Cousins visiting George and Olivia Theroux in 1917. Back Row: Martin Knudson, George Theroux, Albert Knudson, Fred Knudson. Front Row: Ina Knudson, Ethel Knudson, Merle Knudson, Olivia Theroux, Halsten Knudson, Mabel (Knudson) Reitan, Mrs. Halsten Knudson, Annie Knudson, Hatti (Knudson) Halversen.

in 1948, living in Millet, Alberta and New Westminster, B.C. before moving to the United States. They have two children, Kent and Cathy.

Besides raising a family, Martin and Ethel were very involved in community and church activities. Martin was a member of the Coal Springs School Board and also played in the band during the early days on the farm. After they moved to Irma, where Martin worked in the Irma Co-op and Fred Jack Hardware, they became more and more involved in the Irma United Church, both becoming lifetime elders.



Martin and Ethel Knudson 40th Anniversary, April 12, 1957.

to San Francisco and then to Snowflake, Arizona. Mel is now retired and he “hobby-farms” on a forty acre property near Snowflake.

From Norway to North Dakota to Sedgewick to Irma, then scattered to Hardisty, Red Door, Edmonton, Fort St. John, Tumbler Ridge, Arizona and Australia. That’s the Martin Knudson family history!

PETER KOZAK

Pete was born at Haight, Alberta and spent his life there until he came to Irma in September 1941 to live with his uncle, John Rabby, and attend high school. When he was in grade twelve in 1944, Pete and two school friends, Havie Elford and Ross McFarland, joined the navy. Due to medical reasons his friends were not accepted and Pete went into the navy alone. After his discharge he worked in the Edmonton area. In the seventies he drove a propane truck for his uncle, Wally Rabby, delivering propane in the Irma area. Pete married, and he and his wife Verna had a family of five - Randy, Keith, Gail, Cheryl and Lori. Pete passed away on June 9, 1979 after battling cancer for several months.

STEVE KROMPOK

Steve was born in Gallop, Hungary in 1903. He came to Canada in June, 1928 and resided in the Irma district until his death. Steve settled in the Ross district and farmed one quarter section of land. In April 1944 a prairie fire threatened his home and fighting it proved too much for him. He passed away at his home on April 13, 1944.

Steve was a brother of Mrs. Andro Fucsko.

That Breathless Moment -

I felt his breath on my cheek
And the gentle touch of his hand;
His very presence near me,
Like a breeze on a desert sand
He deftly sought my lips,
And my head did gently hold;
Then he broke the silence with:
“Shall the filling be silver or gold?”

WALTER KUWICA

Walter Kuwica, known to his friends as Laddie, was born July 12, 1901 in Horodok in the Ukraine. He married his wife Eunice in 1921. He came to Canada in 1927, and after working for the passages of his family, sent for them. He farmed in the Education Point district. From this marriage came four children, Dan, Fred, Mary and Anne. In 1951 he and his wife moved to Edmonton and bought an interest in the Commercial Hotel. Later they bought the Lacona Apartments where they lived for fifteen years.

Walter passed away in 1982. Eunice lives with her daughter Mary Bey. Walter was predeceased by his son Fred and daughter Anne. Dan lives in Irma with his three daughters Laura, Diane and Vicky.

MR. AND MRS. ED LACROIX S.W. 1/4 14-46-8-W4th.

by Lauretta (Savard) Lindsay

Grandpa arrived in the Irma district in 1914. Grandma followed later. They lived a quiet life. However, if we school children, including Hazel and I, "dallied" at the corner after school, Grandma would appear, to tell us to "get home". The trees in that corner were smaller then.

Grandma was such a "meticulous" person. The chrome on her "old" stove just shone. Agnes and I took turns to wash "all" the floors. No "rounding" the corners. We were happy if the Saturday was "rainy" as it meant no verandah (Big) scrubbing.

New Year's Day was spent at Grandpa's and Grandma's. It was nice to have grandparents so close.

After a lot of illness, Grandma passed away in the 30's, Grandpa in the 40's.

Lauretta passed away January 18th, 1982 at the coast. She is buried in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery.



Grandpa Lacroix took care of his horses. They were overfed, under-worked. As a result they would go "jogging" by themselves with some implement behind them. The disinterested little person is me. (Lauretta Lindsay.)

NORMA (DOOTSON) LAKUSTA

I was born the second youngest in a family of four girls and two boys. Early memories are of us four girls sleeping in one bedroom and Dad keeping the heater stoked at night with coal, and of us huddling around the same heater in the morning while we dressed. The same childhood memories are of love, security and contentment. Neighbors would often drop in to visit or play cards and we also went visiting regularly.

As a youngster, I often had to entertain myself as there was no close neighbor child to play with. I spent endless hours playing house and store, dressing the current kitten up in doll clothes, or pretending to drive for miles in a rusted old car body which was parked in the field.

In spring we often went hunting for magpies' nests to control the population. There were always chickens to feed and I'll never forget the pesky red rooster which would always find me in the barnyard and give chase no matter how cautious I was and how many detours taken to avoid him. Joyous was the day when he was roasted for our dinner.

Since the boys fell in place as being second oldest and youngest, we girls were my dad's "tractor girls". As one outgrew the job or got married the next one took on the responsibility of driving the tractor and pulling the binder at harvest time. It never failed I always seemed to turn too sharply and snap at least one reel on the binder per season. Much as I hated that job, I always looked forward with great anticipation when it came to threshing time. It was fun to get up when it was still dark as the neighborhood men came for an early breakfast before harnessing their teams for a long day of threshing. The most dreaded time was having to shovel grain in the granary. I suffered a few bumps on the head and shed a good many tears as the granary was filled and there was barely room for myself. Finally Dad would relent and start filling another granary. There was a lot to be said for the advent of the combine.

I attended grades one to twelve in Irma. It was while I



Dave Norma, Terry, Dale and Keith Lakusta.

was in grade twelve that Mom and Dad sold the farm and moved into town. In 1966, while in grade twelve, I met my future husband, David Lakusta of Andrew, Alberta. At that time he was working on the construction of the small A.G.T. building. Upon completion of high school I entered the Misericordia School of Nursing in Edmonton. David and I were married during my second year of training. Following graduation in 1969 I worked as a full time staff nurse in the new Misericordia Hospital until the arrival of our first son, Terry, in 1972. There followed two more boys, Dale in 1974 and Keith in 1976. After living in Edmonton's west-end for several years we decided it was time to move our three active little boys to an acreage and did so in 1977. Our home is south of Spruce Grove. Needless to say, I gave up my nursing career to care for the children.

All the boys now attend school in Stony Plain and enjoy country living. David established his own construction company in 1979 after working for several years as superintendent for A.V. Carlson Construction.

In the fall of 1982 I decided it was time to return to nursing after seeing all the children through playschool, kindergarten and their communicable diseases. At that time I took a refresher course and am now again employed as a part-time staff nurse at the Misericordia.

Our boys are all involved in minor hockey in Stony Plain and Terry is also in the ski club. Dave and I are enjoying these young years of our children and have even started farming on a small scale with a dog, cats, calves and of course chickens and ducks now residing in our freezer. Even after almost seven years on our acreage we are still doing a bit more landscaping and during the summer, cater to the family's yen for fishing by camping at the lake as much as possible.

LAMBERT-LEWIS STORY

told by Irene (Lambert) Charron

John and Mary Lambert, their daughter Irene, and Mary's brothers - Herbert and Tommy Lewis sailed from Liverpool, England, on August 2, 1929, aboard the "Duchess of York". They arrived in Montreal August 11 and took the train to Winnipeg where they reported to Immigration, were designated land, then again by train to Vermilion.

Their first shopping was done at Craig's store in Vermilion. At 8 a.m. on August 13, Dad and Herbert set out with four "unbroken" broncs, a wagon and their belongings and the few meagre farm tools they were given and headed out for their H.B.C. farm at 26-46-8-W4. The directions given them were to travel south to the Grizzly Bear Coulee (what was a Coulee?), on to Buffalo Coulee, south to Passchendale School and over the top of the trees they would see the roof of their house! After travelling about 10 miles they stopped to rest and feed the horses as it was very hot. Shortly after starting out again, the horses started shaking their heads up and down which alarmed Dad and he wondered if it was caused by something in the hay they had fed the horses. They were later to learn about "horse flies".

When they came to the Grizzly Bear Coulee, the horses started galloping down the hill. Herb got scared and jumped out, but Dad was wedged in the water trough and surrounded by barbed wire and could not move, so he held tightly onto the reins till the horses stopped at the bottom of the coulee. The wooden churn Mom bought at Craig's fell out during the "runaway" and all that reached the farm were the dashers. Onward south they proceeded, but did not come to Passchendale School. About 11 p.m. they stopped at Henry Eyben's farm where they got directions for the school. The H.B.C. supervisor who had driven Mom, Tommy and me to the farm set out to look for Dad and Herb and finally found them near the Goodwin farm and guided them from there to the farm. They arrived "home" at 2 a.m., exhausted, having travelled 18 hours to their destination. Everyone slept in their clothes that night on the one bed provided.

The hard first years necessitated Dad and Herbert to work for the CNR, leaving Mom, Tommy and me to cope with the loneliness, howl of coyotes, and the unknowns in a new land. Mom tells how her first bread making attempt was somewhat less than successful and loaves could have been kicked from the farm to Irma without making a dent in them. Mom would sell her eggs in town for 4¢ a dozen and butter for 12¢ a pound. Dad's first wheat sold for 17¢ a bushel and Banner seed oats for 12¢ a bushel.

Taxes for a 1/4 section during the 1930's were \$48 and it was possible to pay this off by supplying a team of horses and working with a fresno at building the country roads.



Tommy, Johnny, Mary, Irene, Herbert aboard the *Duchess of York*.



Back Row: Irene, Tommy, Mary, Herbert, John. Middle Row: George, Darwin. Front Row: Gwen, Carole.

George was born in 1930 and Darwin in 1932. As a boy, George loved getting into grease (ie. from the wagon wheels), much to mom's consternation, and when he moved to Sidney, B.C. in 1963 he operated his own garage, but has since gone into the commercial fishing industry. Darwin lives on and farms the former Slipper place where the family moved to in 1943 from the Hudson Bay quarter. Gwendolyn was born in 1938 and Carole in 1940. Gwen married Earl Ruttle in 1958 and later moved to Hay River, N.W.T. Gwen and her young daughter Roxanne passed away in a tragic trailer fire in 1971. Carole married Stan Banks and is presently residing in Round Hill. Irene married Raymond Charron and is now living in Camrose. It should be noted that with the exception of Gwen, the children born in Canada were born at home with the capable assistance of Mrs. R.D. Allen.

George, Darwin and I attended Avonglen School until the family moved to the Slipper farm, at which time the boys, Gwen and Carole attended Orbindale School. After high school, Irene taught at Education Point as a supervisor in 1945-46, during the post-war teacher shortage years.

The year of 1944 proved a big year - we purchased our first car - a 1928 Chev. from Henry Prothero for \$300.

When World War II broke out, Tommy joined the army and served overseas with the Three River's Tank Regiment. He was killed in action at Ortona, Italy, July 21, 1944. Herbert also joined the Army Medical Corps, but remained in Canada. In 1948 he married Marjorie McFarland. Herb passed away November, 1972. Their only child Debra, is married and lives at Tofino, on Vancouver Island.

Mary and John moved to the Chacutenah Manor in 1977, where they are presently residing.

I would like to pay a special tribute to my parents and all the other early settlers like them, for their perseverance and steadfastness during the many difficult times, and for making Alberta the wonderful province it is, in which to live.

ARTHUR LANDERS FAMILY

Arthur Graham Landers, known as Bun, was born January 20th, 1910, on his parents homestead twelve miles northeast of Kinsella, on N.W. 34-47-10-W4. Arthur attended Echo and Lynx Schools.

As a young man he worked out in the Irma and Wainwright areas. During these years he played hockey, baseball and rode in local stampedes.

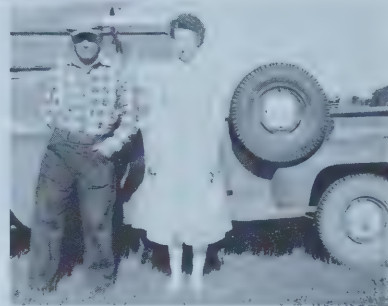
In 1929 he rented the N.E. 33-47-10-W4 and put in a crop. Economic conditions put an end to this venture, and he spent 1930 to 1939 helping his folks through the depression.

In September, 1939, Ruth Vanmeer came from Amisk to board with Mrs. Landers, and to teach at Echo School, eventually for three years. On November 6th, 1940, Arthur and Ruth were married in Viking.

In the spring, 1941, Arthur bought his farm, S. 1/2 28-47-10-W4, and Arthur and Ruth moved to this farm. In May, 1943, a daughter Florence, was born. When



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Landers.



Arthur and Ruth Landers, 1952.

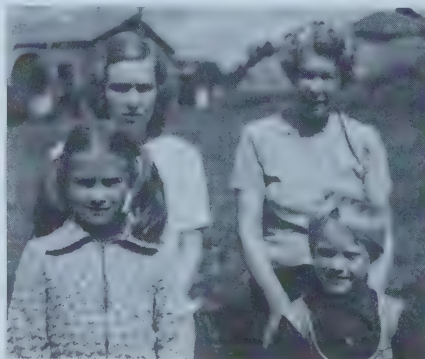
Florence was six she started three years of correspondence courses.

In 1952, Echo School was opened with Ruth as teacher of four pupils, David Thomas, Phyllis Tessman, Ralph Tessman and Florence Landers. By June, 1955 there were ten pupils, but the school was closed, and Ruth and most of the pupils were transferred to Albert School for three years until June, 1958.

In September, 1958, Florence attended Kinsella School for grade ten. Ruth was substitute teacher at Albert for this year. In September, 1959 Ruth went to Kinsella to teach, eventually for fourteen years. Florence finished grade eleven in Kinsella, took grade twelve in Daysland and Viking, and later became a registered nurse at the Misericordia School of Nursing.

In 1964, Florence and Elmer Strembitsky were married, and moved to Edmonton. They have two children, Celine and Wayne. Florence nurses part time at the Misericordia.

Ruth and Arthur sold their farm to Lyle Oracheski, but lived in the house until Arthur's death August 6th, 1983. Ruth moved to Kinsella in October, 1983.



*Florence
(Landers)
Strembitsky,
Celine
Strembitsky,
Wayne
Strembitsky.*

ROBERT LANDERS FAMILY

by Ruth Landers

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Landers came from Wireton, Ontario, to Vegreville, Alberta, in 1906. Mrs. Landers, Viney, son Bob and Margaret stayed in Vegreville, while Mr. Landers walked to Viking, and later to the homestead northeast of Kinsella. Their homestead was N.W. 34-47-10-W4th. Also at Vegreville were Mr. Landers' mother and his brother, Arthur, known as Attie. One of Mrs. Landers' uncles, Andy Hepburn, and Allie Landers filed on homesteads on section 28-47-10-W4th about the same time as Bob Landers.

Violet was born while the family lived in Vegreville. Arthur (Bun) was born on the homestead northeast of Kinsella. Then the Landers moved back to Viking for a few years while the older children started school. During their stay in Viking, Mary was born. The younger children arrived after they moved out to the homestead again with the exception of Joe, who was born in Viking Hospital.

Mr. Landers passed away in Viking Hospital in early August, 1943. Mrs. Landers made her home near Drayton Valley and Violet Grove. She spent her last years in Nursing Homes in Edmonton. During these years, Violet moved to Edmonton so she could help nurse her mother. Mrs. Landers passed away in mid-August of 1973.

Viney was married to Mangie Wahlund. For a few years they farmed north of Fabyan. Then they moved to a farm close to Pibroch, Alberta, in the fall of 1928. Norma Young of Bonnyville is their oldest daughter. Fern Wagner of Edmonton comes next, then Jean. The older boy, Eric and his wife live close to Viney at Pibroch. Garnet and Bernice lived at Sedgewick. Garnet passed away March 13th, 1982. Mangie passed away in the 1950's.

Bob married Grace Smith, a teacher, and they moved to a homestead, and later to a bigger farm a few miles south of Drayton Valley. Bob ran the ferry across the North Saskatchewan near Drayton Valley for many years until a bridge was built. They raised five children.

Margaret was married to Clifford Allen. They had six: Robert and Clare of Drayton Valley; (Fay) Mrs. Alfred Badry of Donalda, Alberta; (Ellen) Mrs. Vern Beckett of Drayton Valley; and (Elsie) Mrs. Dave Arndt of Donalda. Another daughter, Lucy, died in the spring of 1958. Clifford passed away in the 1960's. Margaret and son Bob made their home in Violet Grove. Margaret passed away February 22nd, 1982.

Violet Landers ran the funeral home at Daysland for many years. She retired and bought a house at Drayton Valley, but later moved to Edmonton to be near her mother. When her mother passed away, she bought a house in Chauvin.

Arthur (Bun) and I were married in November, 1940. We farmed on the south-half of 28-47-10-W4th and N.W. 28-47-10-W4th. Florence arrived May 4th, 1943. Florence attended Echo, Albert, Kinsella, Daysland and Viking Schools. She trained as a nurse at the Misericordia Hospital. Florence and Elmer Strembitsky were married in October, 1964 and live in Edmonton. They have a

daughter, Celine, and a son, Wayne. Florence works at the Jubilee Lodge Nursing Home. Elmer works for the C.N.R.. Bun Landers passed away.

Mary and Melvin Prosser made their home in the Orbindale district northeast of Irma. Mary had attended Camrose Normal School. They had four children. Gerald is married to Joyce Nickolson and live in Terrace, B.C. He is foreman on road construction for MacMillan Bloedel. Joyce works as an assistant to the Social Services worker in Terrace, for under-privileged mothers. Cindy, their oldest daughter, is married to Gordon Hull, who has his own logging trucks. Leona, Gerald's second daughter, is married to Allan Parsons of Irma. The son, Gerald Junior, is still attending school.

Mary and Melvin's second and third sons, Arnold and Robert, also live in British Columbia.

Their daughter, Lorna, is married to Dick Nickolson and live on a farm north of Chauvin. They have four boys, Gene, Brent, Wiley and Fred. Dick raises and races ponies and quarter horses.

Mary and Melvin farmed for several years. Melvin worked in Mannville for a time, then the whole family moved to Mannville for a few years. When Melvin became Pest Control Officer for Eastern Alberta, they made their home in Chauvin. Melvin passed away of heart failure on November 6th, 1977, while hunting. Mary still lives in Chauvin.

Zela was married to Ralph Blaine. They had two sons, young Ralph and Ray. When Ralph went overseas in 1939, Zela and the boys moved to Vancouver. Young Ralph worked on farms. Ray became a Jehovah Witness minister. Ray has worked in Africa as a missionary. Young Ralph died in January, 1981. His dad, Ralph, died in June, 1980.

Zela was married to Pete Jacobson after the war. They had one son, young Peter. Zela died in the spring of 1970. Pete Jacobson and Peter live in Abbotsford.

Lela was married to Steve Stecyk. They live at Westbank, B.C. Steve runs an upholstery shop. Their younger daughter, Verga, is married and living across the street from Steve and Lela. Their older girl Kloe and their son Steve live in B.C. with their families.

Joe and Maynard Allen have lived north of Irma, at Strome and at Violet Grove. At Violet Grove, they had a store and the post office for a number of years. In later years, Maynard had heavy equipment for use in opening up well sites, and right-of-ways. They had five children: Eunice, Lee, Donna, Lannie and Faith.

Gordon (Jack) Landers married Pearl Milne of Vancouver in 1942. They lived in and near Vancouver for many years. In the 1970's they came back to Calmar and later to Breton. They raised five children; Gordon, Coleen, Ray, Gerry and Shirley. All are married except Gerry, who lives in Breton. Shirley lives at Wizard Lake, south of Calmar. Gordon, Coleen Ross and Ray live in British Columbia. Pearl's husband, Gordon, died in October, 1979.

The trouble with having a perfect husband is that there's never any hope of improvement.

ALF LARSON STORY

by Murle Larson

Mr. and Mrs. Cap Larson and three children came from Norway in the early summer of 1905. Alf was eleven years old and Rick a couple years younger and Bertha was the oldest.

Even as young children they took men's places in the field and the home.

When Alf grew up and started on his own he married Melissa McInroy from Mannville and ten children were born to this family. Olive, Albert, Gladys, Greta, Ralph, Betty, Marnie, Claude and Cora (twins). The mother passed away in about 1936 result of a goitre operation, leaving some very young children, the twins being only three. With the help of the older children they kept the home together and looked after the younger ones.

Alf and I were married in the fall of 1939. I was a young girl who didn't have too much experience in running a house and family but I learned in a hurry. I was always quite handy with sewing, and where there are children, there is always lots of sewing to do. The girls were good to help with the meals and dishes so left me time to sew. I had a friend who sent us boxes of clothes



Some of the family that met for Albert's 50th Birthday. Back Row, Left to Right: Marney, Adelene, Betty, Cora, Greta, Gladys. Front Row, Left to Right: Philip, Murle, Alf and Albert.

and oh my, the nice clothes the girls could have made over and they were so grateful. The many uses of flour and sugar bags even the salt bags made dish cloths. Flour bags were used for pillow cases, tea towels, sewn together to make sheets and underclothes. The print was so hard to get out of the bags I'm sure many youngsters had Robin Hood or Five Roses across their bottoms.

Alf had a tractor but the majority of the farming was done with horses. This meant we always had hired men as well, which made more work for the women. What with a lot of cows to milk, a big garden, chickens, turkeys, pigs, these chores seemed to fall on the women.

Alf and Rick had a threshing machine together and what a headache that was. If they had a man helping who had a farm, this man would want his threshing done first. The man who owned the machine was generally last

getting his threshing done in order to have help. Some help was good but some men thought it a delight if they could plug the machine or even run into the feeder. Thus the men who owned the machine had to spend half the night fixing and still be up at four in the morning to get the horses fed. In 1942 we didn't get finished threshing and Alf had to dig bundles out of the stooks covered with snow all winter for feed for the stock. This meant threshing in the spring which was hard on everyone. It seemed the week that threshing started, they would butcher in order to have meat for the threshers and along with milking, calves, pigs, and poultry to feed and kids to get off to school, fresh meat to can or cure, no deep freezes or fridges, we were very busy housewives. I remember one time Alf butchered and went off threshing and the last thing he said to me was, "Don't forget to make the head cheese." With all the other things I had to do I just couldn't get the head cheese made so I took the head and hid it in the bush. A day or two later Alf asked me if I had made the head cheese and of course he wasn't home to know whether we had it or not so I agreed with him I had. He said, "Yes I know, I had to step over the head to get out the gate this morning." The dog had brought it back and deposited it in the gateway.

We always churned our own butter, a five gallon cream can of cream at a time. We had a wooden barrel churn. One churning lasted about a month, and of course we had the good buttermilk for drinking or baking. We did all our baking with cream and butter.

Gerald and Dave Currie built the barn on the farm in about 1936 or 37. They also built the house in the summer of 1939. It was a two story house and what a strong house that was, cross braced and spiked that you wouldn't believe. At the time we didn't finish the house on the inside (couldn't afford it). After a year or so we papered the half inch siding with building paper, and what a job that was! We made the glue by cooking flour and water till it was clear and no lumps and when put on the paper made it so heavy on a seven foot strip you could hardly lift it. We had a lot of fun even at this sticky job. My sister Daisy helped me one winter and she all but wrapped me in a sheet of wet glued paper. In later years we were able to plaster board and paint, much easier to keep clean.

In 1944 we were able to buy a piano from Teddy Foxwell. I think we paid two hundred and fifty dollars for it and Mr. Foxwell had paid seven hundred for it new a few years before. The three girls took lessons from Mrs. Bert Long and could all play for their own amusement. Alf played the violin by ear since he was a boy. Nearly all the children are musically inclined.

When the children came from school they all had chores to do. Big boxes of wood to carry, enough to last till the next night, coal to get up for the night, and of course water to carry from the pumphouse which the men usually did. We had a large crock which held four pails of water as well as the reservoir on the cook stove. We had an abundance of soft water from a deep well two hundred and eighty feet, which was drilled in 1928, and still supplies plenty of water today.

I think one of the greatest blessings was when the power came into the district around 1953. No more

coal oil lamps or lanterns to fill and clean; and there was light in every room as well as in the barn and the yard was lit up.

Albert was called into the army in early 1940 where he stayed for several years.

In 1956 Alf got a piece of steel in his eye resulting in the loss of the eye. He was fortunate to have it replaced by an artificial eye which could hardly be told from his own. One of the things that bothered him most was he couldn't judge distance so well but was a man of great determination and was soon driving and able to do his regular work. Alf took great pleasure in working with stock and was a good feeder, and kept a lot of fattening cattle in the wintertime.

There were hard years but you stuck it out together as your marriage vows were for life and there was no place to go and no money to go with.

There was much stealing of grain and cattle. Some were brought to justice and some were not. We did not suffer as some of the early settlers did, who had their buildings burned. Alf had stooks loaded with stones wrapped in long slough grass, also nitroglycerine put in the stooks, which caused the separator to be blown up delaying threshing for a day or two. Many were the sleepless nights. Alf would be up walking around to see if anyone was around doing damage.

Philip was born in 1942. He started school at Ross, rode horseback by himself, later attending Irma. Philip is married and lives on the homeplace. He married Evelyn Bauer of Mannville and they have three children.

Claude married Irene Halston and has five children. He lives in Fort Saint John where he is a welder.

Cora married Chris Emmslund (now deceased) and had three children. She has remarried and lives at Vernon.

Marney married Gordon Honeyman, has four children and lives at Trail.

Betty married Mark Gregoire and they have four children. They live in Edmonton.

Ralph married Connie Anderson. They have five children and live west of Jasper.

Adeline married Glen Hockelt. They have five children and live at Brownvale.

Greta married Gerald Glasgow, now deceased. They had five children, two of whom are deceased. Shirley was burned in a house fire. Robbie was struck by lightning at the Irma School. Greta now lives in Viking.

Gladys married Bill Whiteley, had three children and makes her home in Berwyn. (Bill is deceased).

Albert married Asta Lindberg and they had three children. The boy Kenneth was tragically killed in a welding accident. This marriage didn't work out so Albert later married Jean Winnick in 1970 and they live at Darwell.

Olive lives in California.

Alf passed away in 1966 after a short illness. One thinks at the time you can't go on but time has a way of healing.

I stayed on the farm for a year or so then came to live in Irma where I still reside. For several years I took in boarders -- young men who worked at the bank, elevator or taught school. I was fortunate to get good boys.

Over the years I have kept a scrapbook since about 1936. Many are the arguments this book has settled and is a delight to look back on different things that have happened.

Church has played a large part in our lives. I love the Lord and taught Sunday School for many years. I take pleasure in keeping my yard up, growing flowers and garden. The Lord has blessed us through the years, with many good friends and neighbors and these are the things that make life worthwhile beside the love of our Lord, Jesus Christ who protects and guides us.

ALLAN LARSON FAMILY

Allan farmed with his brothers on the home farm where he had been raised until the spring of 1941. He left to attend Youth Training school in Edmonton where he was enrolled in an engineering course before enlisting in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He served overseas with the Number Six Bomber Squadron as an engine mechanic until the war was over. He arrived home in January of 1946 and that spring through the Veteran's Homestead Lease obtained a half section of raw land, the S.1/2 of Section 11-47-9-W4th, the land he still farms and where he maintains his home. Over the years he added more land to bring it to its present size.

The first one hundred acres of the half section was brushed with a brush cutter by Frank Shaban from Wainwright and broken with a two bottom breaking plow pulled by a D7 cat owned by Alf Gerhart from Mannville. The roots and rocks were removed by hand and a lot of "sweat of the brow" and "elbow grease"! Allan started farming with an Oliver 70 tractor and a six foot International tiller with a seed box. The grain was



Allan Larson family, October, 1976. Leonard, Jean, Kerri, Trent, Allan and Dwight.

The next time you feel like complaining, remember that your garbage disposal eats better than thirty percent of the people of the world.

cut with an eight foot binder, stooked by hand and threshed by Ivan Hardy's threshing outfit. During the next thirty years as more land was added, bigger machinery was used. The first combining was done in 1951 with Lawrence Savage's combine. Then in 1955 Allan bought his own combine.

A vivid memory of Allan's childhood was when his father purchased the first family car, a new 1926 Model T. Ford. It was used for family outings throughout the summer; during the winter months it was kept up on blocks because roads didn't warrant its use. Often the summer outings were to go to "King's Park" at the Battle river - east of the present government campsite and on the old road to Wainwright.

Where the present farm site is located was the old Buckskin Flats Stampede grounds and in the 1930's stampedes were organized by Gordon Ambler and held here. Anyone was eligible to and did enter in the events in the hopes of earning himself a bit of money for the day. On the last day of school when Allan was writing his final exams at Education Point school where Verna Robertson was teaching, he found it hard to sit through the exams when such a challenge was waiting only a mile away. Out of these stampedes Jerry Ambler was one of the cowboys. He went on to win the World's Saddle Bronc Riding Championship.

Another stirring event during the 30's was the presence of the R.C.M.P. in the district. For a time they stayed at the David Currie farm home to patrol by saddle horse and car to try to prevent such crimes as cattle rustling, grain stealing and moonshining. While the R.C.M.P. were stationed at Currie's they were reported to have attended a barn dance at Rodino. They felt they had put a stop to the sales of moonshine that night, yet Currie's hired man who heard the mounties boasting of this had himself purchased some moonshine at that very same dance.

One of the means of transportation for some of the young people like Allan was the saddle horse and was used to travel to dances, ball games, picnics or other outings. The country dances that were so popular were held in the schools or barns. For winter the open sleigh advanced to closed cutters (with heaters added later) and here filled to capacity when heading for dances or hockey games.

Allan played hockey for the Albert Steam Rollers, a team that was in a league with Saulteaux, Orbindale, Passchendale, Alma Mater and Roseberry. The outdoor hockey rinks were surrounded with fans who at times were standing on banks of snow around the rink piled as high as the boards. Each time the snow was shovelled off the rink it would be thrown over the boards to build up around the outside. The "home" ice for Albert team was at the George Hardy farm.

In the summer of 1949 Allan and I (Jean Cockroft) were married. We had met earlier when Allan was in the Air Force. I began teaching at Education Point School in 1947 and also taught at Albert before the centralization of several one room rural schools. These formed the Albert Centralized School that is now the Albert Community Hall. Money was not too plentiful for a young farmer trying to get started after the war. To turn

raw land into production and at the same time trying to add more land and establish a herd of cattle was a difficult proposition. Allan traded two range cows and two hundred dollars to Tam Ambler for a small two-roomed house that was originally the home of Charlie Anderson. This house was pulled across the section to the present farmstead nine miles north of Irma - S.E. 11-47-9-W4th. A well was bored by brother Mike Larson. Fences were built and the farm then began to grow to its present status.

Allan operated a mixed farm from 1947 to 1963 when the cattle and pigs were sold. From then strictly grain - mainly wheat and rapeseed, have been grown. A point of concern in growing rapeseed was the infestation of army worms in the late sixties and early seventies. This problem required special spraying of the crops that in most cases had to be carried out by airplane because the crops were by then too far advanced to ground spray. At the present time farming for us has become technical and automated by the use of such equipment as grain dryers, air seeders, vacuum augers and combines that pinpoint malfunctions.

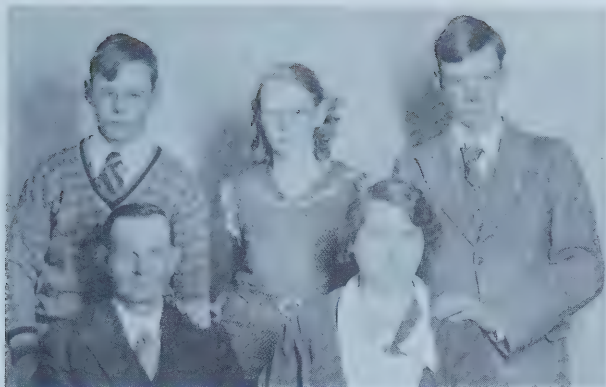
When I first came to Education Point School to teach, like other rural teachers, I had grades one to nine in one room with around twenty pupils, but at times as high as thirty-five. The highlight of the school year was always the Christmas concert. It was a community social event that attracted the entire district as well as friends from neighboring districts. We usually began practicing in November. There were usually three or four dances put on at each school to raise funds for school or community projects. Other highlights of the school year might include a ball game on a Friday afternoon against a neighboring school. At Education Point we challenged Ross, Orbindale and Avonglen at different times.

I taught at Education Point from 1947 to 1951, then at Albert for two years and then back at Education Point until the rural schools here centralized at Albert in September, 1954. In 1963 I quit teaching for fourteen years and when I returned to teach again it was in Irma in 1977. By this time all rural schools were closed.

Our children have lived their entire lives on our farm and have always attended school in Irma. Dwight finished Grade twelve in June, 1982 and is presently enrolled in a Motor Mechanics course at Lakeland College in Wainwright. Trent is taking Grade eleven and Kerri Grade nine. The saddest event in the lives of our family was the loss of our son Leonard as a result of a skidoo accident when he was fifteen years old.

In 1983 the future appears unpredictable as the whole country is in the grips of inflation, but in all likelihood this farm will carry on in the hands of our sons. However Allan still operates the farm and I am still teaching school in Irma.

Many people complain that the mail service is slow. But think about it. When was the last time your gas, electric and phone bills were late?



Back Row: Gunnar, Elsie, Clarence and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Larson in front.

CARL AND ALMA LARSON

Carl Ivor Larson was born April 13th, 1887, near Stockholm, Sweden. He immigrated to the United States as a young man. He worked on a transit line in Minneapolis, Minn. The following year Alma Catarina Wigh also immigrated to the United States, along with a sister and a sister of Carl's. She was born near Stockholm January 5th, 1889. She worked on a dairy farm.

Carl and Alma were married in Garrison, North Dakota, U.S.A. They moved to Alberta to homestead near Suffield. They had three children, Clarence, Gunnar and Elsie. Later they moved to Byan and were neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Dietrich.

In February of 1925 the Larson family moved to Irma one and one-half miles west of town. They farmed there for many years. Times were hard in those early years so Carl did odd jobs to make ends meet. The children took all their schooling in Irma.

In the fall of 1940 Clarence was drafted into the army. He was stationed in Camrose, but got his discharge the next year as he was needed on the farm. Clarence worked for Rick Larson and Ole Halverson.

Elsie joined the army the fall of 1942. Later she was sent to London, England. While there she went to visit Mrs. Charter's sister.

Carl and Alma sold the farm to Gunnar, as Alma was in poor health and it was thought a change of climate would help, so they moved to Nanaimo, B.C. They did not stay for too many years as the weather was too damp, so they moved back to Irma and lived with Gunnar. Alma was a wonderful cook and baker, what mouth-watering cream puffs she made!

On weekends they played cards, if they did not have a housefull of people they would play at friends' homes. They spent many an evening playing whist with Paul and Bertha Weisser.

In September of 1945 Clarence went to work for the Canadian National Railway as a section hand, where he worked with John Shapka. In November they had the first wedding in the family. Clarence married Olinda Weisser who had moved to Irma from Calgary with her family that summer.

The year of 1946 was a happy time as Elsie came

home after getting her discharge from the army. In July, Carl and Alma took Elsie to North Dakota, U.S.A. where Elsie met and married her fiance Gordon Murphy from Watertown, Conn., U.S.A.

In 1947 Carl and Alma became grandparents, Elsie and Gordon had a son in May. Clarence and Olinda had a son in July. That winter Carl and Alma went to visit Elsie and family, also saw Carl's cousin in Wisconsin and sister in Oklahoma and Alma's sister in Wisconsin. In 1950 they bought a small house in Irma from Mr. and Mrs. Pete Skavinski. This was nice for Alma as she could go shopping any time, and now they had electricity, later got water and gas as they came to Irma. This made things a lot easier for her.

Carl worked in Wainwright in the army camp in the kitchen for a number of years. One fall Alma fell and broke her leg so Carl had to do the housework at home. Alma was always cheerful and ready for a good laugh, even though she had health problems. Carl loved to play bingo. Was lucky at times, once he won a large teddy bear which his great-grandson plays with today. Carl passed away February of 1957.

Gunnar was living in Irma with his parents by then so stayed on with his mother. Alma made a trip by herself to see Elsie and family, also stopped to see her sister in Wisconsin. Her health deteriorated so she went into Wainwright Auxiliary Hospital. She passed away January 30th, 1966.

Clarence and Olinda live in Edson. Clarence retired from the Department of Transportation October, 1983. They have two sons and two daughters. Phillip in Australia, Luella and Gordon Wells and two children, also Dale and Linda live in Edson. Beverly and Roland Larson and their children live at Duffield. Gunnar and Agnes live in the old home in Irma. Gunnar retired from the farm, spends the winters in Irma and the summers in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, to be near Agnes' family.

Elsie lives near Watertown, Conn., U.S.A. and is working at Heminway and Bartlett Mfg. Co. where they produce thread for industries including Ford Co. Her son Bruce and wife Joanne live in Torrington, Conn. Bruce works in plating.

BJARNE LARSON

Bjarne the third son was born in February 1913 and took public school at Coal Springs School, High School at Irma and Vermilion. He took Normal at Camrose. He taught school at Coal Springs, Hayter, Fort Saskatchewan and Edmonton. He married Viola Roebuck from Vermilion and they had two children. Jerry, a Peridontist is married and lives in Edmonton. Their daughter Thelma passed away in 1962. Bjarne is now retired and lives with his wife in Edmonton.

INFLUENCE

*"It was only a glad "Good morning,"
As he passed along the way;
But it spread the morning's glory
Over the livelong day."*



Erling Larson and friend.

ERLING LARSON FAMILY

by Goldy Larson

Erling was born September 4, 1915. He was the youngest son of Rasmus A. Larson and Olivia (Strand) Larson. He was born at the old farmhouse which is still standing - N.W. 24-47-9.

Erling attended school at Albert School and after leaving school, he worked with his family on the farm. In the late 30's he went trucking while still farming.

I (Goldy Dew) met Erling in 1938 and we were married December 23, 1940. I was born south of Mannville on February 5, 1924. I attended Tankerton School until 1938. After we were married we lived at the Larson farm. At that time farming was still done mainly by horses.

Erling was very fond of horses and broke many to ride and drive. The first electric welder in the community was bought by Erling in the early 1940's - a Lincoln that ran by tractor. The first time he used it at night, the neighbors kept phoning and asking if we had a fire, because every time it arced, the whole sky lit up. They had never seen anything like it before.

We had many adventures such as custom breaking with D4 cats, driving school bus, livestock farming, and grain farming. When we left the farm in 1955, we owned two and one-half sections of farmland.

Our family consisted of seven children. Our first, Edna, was born September, 1943, - deceased 1945. To follow came: Gordon - January 1945; Roger - August 1946; Richard - July 1947; Peggy Ann - December 1949; Douglas - September 1953; and Karen - November 1958.

In 1955 we started school bus driving and the garage business in Irma, selling the original bus for the Albert district to Albert Jones. We owned five busses at that time. Later we sold two busses to Coffin and McRoberts.

Erling died February 1964 at the age of forty-eight. After his death, my sons continued with the garage and busses. In 1981 we sold the last bus.

At present, Gordon resides in Wainwright and works for Warriner Brothers. He married Lois Reed and they have three children: Candace, Kelly and Ward.

Roger, Richard and Douglas all still work at the garage.

Roger married Joyce Lovig and they also have three children: Kirk, Kim and Leonard. Roger farms the old homeplace along with other land. He also had cattle. Kirk has finished school and now works at the garage. He has his first year mechanic course.

Richard married Marlus Fuder and they have three sons: David, Daniel and Kenny. Richard has also ventured into the cattle business.

Peggy Ann (Olson) resides at Fort McMurray. She has two sons - Todd and Jeffery - Gregory, (deceased).

Douglas married Joanne McInroy, they have one son - Robert. Doug's favorite hobby is restoring old cars and trading them off.

Karen has a daughter, Jennifer, and works at the Bank of Montreal. She has worked there for the past seven years.

I live alone now and work at the garage. I look forward to gardening in the summer and enjoy watching the grandchildren playing hockey in the winter.



Peggy, Richard, Gordon, Goldie, Roger, Doug and Karen.

HAAKON AND VERA LARSON

I, Haakon Larson was born November 29th, 1911 on the homestead of Mr. and Mrs. "Cap" Larson, five miles north of Irma. I was born in threshing time and my dad was the doctor.

My parents moved to the Albert district where I went to school. After completing grade seven, I decided farming was more my line so I quit school. With my brothers and Dad we hauled grain to Irma with horses and sleigh a distance of twelve and one-half miles. We'd start out at six a.m. and arrive back home around three p.m. Sometimes it was bitterly cold, about forty degrees below zero F. In the early days we farmed around five hundred acres with twenty-four horses.

I, Vera Larson was born July 14th, 1913 at Evesham, Saskatchewan, to Mr. and Mrs. Roland Herbert. I started school at Cotswold school near Evesham where



Back Row: Grace, Dale, Dorothy. Front: Vera and Haakon Larson.

Mom and Dad farmed for several years. Due to a change of circumstances we moved to Deville, Alberta, north of Cooking Lake.

I went to school in Deville until Dad sold out and we came to Irma to live. I went to Irma school till grade eleven when I quit and married Haakon Larson. We lived with his parents for seven years at which time we moved to our own farm across the road. We had four children, Dorothy, Grace, Lyle and Dale. Lyle passed away in 1944.

Between 1950-1955 Haakon was in partnership with Wilf Symington in a car dealership, as well as school busses in Irma.

In 1955 we moved back to the Albert district and lived there until 1960 when we sold the farm to Ivan Hardy. It is now owned by the Haun brothers. We moved back to Irma where Haakon took over the John Deere business from Carl Anquist.

We stayed in Irma until 1967 when we moved to Wainwright. Here we had John Deere Implements. We kept this business until 1975, then sold out to Dale Larson and John Barss.

We are enjoying our retirement in Wainwright.

LOUIE AND MAXINE LARSON

by Laverne Ford and Correen Larson

Louie Larson was born in November, 1906, the first white baby born in the Ross district, to "Cap" and Olivia Larson who had come from Norway in 1905. Louie's family moved to the Albert district where Louie received his education and lived on the family farm - the land presently owned by Goldie Larson - until he married.

Maxine DeTro came to live in the Irma district in the early twenties with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Bert Clelland. She received her education at Education Point school.

Louie and Maxine were married February 11th, 1931 and moved to the S.E. 2-47-9-W4th which was previously owned by a man named McDermid. Here their family grew. Times were hard but with fortitude and hard work this couple was able to buy more land and improve their home. In 1950 they built a new house, the carpenter being Jim Craig Sr. Part of their old home was moved to Clair Luken's farm to help make their home. Later about 1965, it was moved back to the homeplace for a part of Tuffy's home. Then in 1976 Wayne moved the house to Irma and presently resides in it. If only the walls could speak, imagine the tales to be told!



Louie Larson family. Glenn, Irene, Tuffy, Clara Lou, Wayne, Louie, Ronald Laverne and Maxine (seated).

Maxine and Louie were blessed with a family of seven, four boys and three girls. Irene married John Randle and they have six children. She is now residing in Strathmore, Alberta. Clara Lou married Clair Lukens and they have two children and live in Irma. Charles, always known as Tuffy, married Jeanette Stuart and had three children. Their only boy, Douglas, was tragically taken from them in 1964 at the age of four years. Tuffy now resides in Vernon, B.C. Ronald married Correen Prosser and they have four children. They are presently living on the homefarm. Glen married Angela Winiarczyk and they have four children and now live in Salmon Arm, B.C. Laverne married Norman Ford and they have five children and live in Wainwright. Wayne married Ardis Weder and they have two girls and reside in Irma. Maxine and Louie were blessed with twenty-five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

For many years, in addition to the large family, Louie and Maxine had numerous hired men who were always made to feel as members of their family. A few of these workers who were hired on a yearly basis were: Jim Bonna, Wilard Bushay, Charlie Hockett and Ritch and Tom Ralph.

Times were pretty tough in the early days and one incident that could have ended tragically was when the hired man had been poisoning gophers and left the can of

poison in the wagon. Irene and Clara Lou, little girls of three and four, drank the poison. They were rushed to Wainwright hospital and the doctor said the only thing that saved them was that they had taken so much. There were numerous little incidents in those early days, which usually had a funny side too.

Music played a large part in this home and they always had an orchestra and spent many hours entertaining for dances.

In 1971 Louie and Maxine semi-retired and moved into Irma and later bought their home from Mrs. Helen Whidden. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1981 with a supper and dance put on by their family. As all their family was able to attend, a family portrait was taken, something Maxine had always wanted.

Louie passed away May 3rd, 1983. He had started farming with horses, but advanced to completely modern machinery. He was able to finish his life still actively working on the farm, which was where he was the happiest. He was always known as a man who would never turn his back to anyone who needed him.

Maxine has always been known for her hospitality and her good cooking, as there was always room for one more at her table, which was usually already full. She now resides at the Auxiliary Hospital in Wainwright and still enjoys weekends with her family. She loves to have friends and family come to visit her. Maxine passed away in 1984.

MATT LARSON FAMILY

Torlief Larson

Matt Larson immigrated from Fiskabygd, Norway to the U.S.A. as a young man in 1898 where he spent ten years working in the Dakotas. In 1908 he returned to his



Matt and Anna Larson, Olaf on Matt's knee, Bjorne the baby, Torlief standing behind.

hometown Norway and married Anna Torlen. He stayed in Norway two years. In 1910, he and his wife and their first son Olaf and Anna's brother John Torlen (Peterson) came to Canada arriving at Irma in May. They stayed with the Cap Larson family, neighbors from the Sonmore district in west Norway until August. Matt homesteaded S.W. 2-45-10 W. 4th southwest of Irma in the Coal Springs district. With the help of his brother-in-law, John Peterson, they built a sod house and later a sod barn. We lived in this sod house until 1917 when a frame house was built. The sod house was about 24 x 32 feet with walls 2 feet thick. It was warm in winter and cool in summer. I can remember one evening when a badger came through the wall; there was some excitement for a while.

Dad started farming with oxen and later horses as he acquired more land. He also worked for some of the neighbors who had settled earlier. In those early years Indians still roamed through once in a while. We had a few Indian children attend our school one summer. Duck and prairie chicken were plentiful and supplied meat during the fall and winter.

Dad and Mother were active in community affairs. Charter members of Sharon Lutheran Church and on the school board of Coal Springs School. The district southwest of Irma consisted of mostly Norwegian settlers so the Norwegian language was spoken in the homes and at neighborhood gatherings. Church services were also conducted in the Norwegian language until about 1925, so all the first generation children learned to read, write and speak our mother tongue which was certainly helpful when I visited Norway in 1970. Dad passed away in 1939 and Mother passed away in 1965.

NAN (MacKAY) LARSON

by Nan Larson

I was born at Beaulieu, Scotland, August 21, 1924 to John and Jeannie MacKay.

We immigrated to Canada in June 1927 along with my younger sister Betty.

My only memory of Scotland is, when a young uncle put me in a bucket with my feet around my head. How I screamed for help!

Our life was simple and happy on our small farm and we have pleasant memories of when a new baby arrived, or out playing hopscotch and building playhouses in the trees.

We had to help out as we got older, looking after the younger ones was a daily task, when Mum was busy. We tried to play as far from the house as possible, hoping we wouldn't hear her call.

I enjoyed walking barefoot in the cool furrow when Dad was breaking some new land.

I remember when brother Don was born, Maude (Smallwood) Mills came out to see Mum, she being a nurse, and one day she brought a most beautiful bouquet of peonies from the Peterson gardens. I had never seen such a flower before and I'm sure no one enjoyed them as much as I at the age of eight. To this day, when I see or smell peonies I recall that day long ago.

Picking saskatoons was a family affair! We would pack a lunch, and be gone most of the day. We took the

team and wagon and brought home buckets full of berries. Each child would have plenty of evidence of what we had been doing by the purple lips and faces. How good they tasted with fresh cream and sugar!

When I started to Glenholm school, I walked a ways and met the Jackmans and rode with Joan on a very slim horse. How blistered I was for awhile! Mum had to soak my undergarments to get them off. A little later I rode with Mary (Kebbel) Dempsey.

The following year Betty started school and we walked two miles across country and through many fences. It was a cold walk in winter for us and sometimes when Dad was well enough he drove us with the team. One winter he made skis for us as five of us were going to school at the time. Different families took turns bringing milk for cocoa or tomato soup we had at noon.

The picnics and concerts were the highlights of the school year. The teachers had much patience with us teaching the drills, plays, songs, etc. Vernon Peterson would come and play his violin for our songs, when we had no one that could play the piano. How exciting it was when the stage was put up, the tree decorated and stencils put on the blackboard. We could hardly wait for the big night when we were bundled into the sleigh no matter how cold or dark it was. The school was always packed with people.

After I finished public school I went out to work at different places. I was at Joe Saville's during the time of the buffalo round up at Wainwright. I worked for a time in Hardisty hospital and then to Edmonton to work at the University hospital until spring of 1945.

I married Torleif Larson in August of 1945 and we have four children: Sonja - Mrs. Len Skori; Lorna - Mrs. Geoff Bate; Lavina - Mrs. Doug Stanton; and John.

MR. AND MRS. OLAF LARSON

by Catherine O'Brien

My grandmother Jenny Kempe was born in Ljusne, Sweden. In her early twenties she and her sister left Sweden for Arlington, South Dakota where she was married to Olaf Larson in 1897.

In the spring of 1907 Olaf Larson came to the Irma district and filed on a homestead southwest of town. He built a sod house before returning to South Dakota for the winter. The following spring he returned with his wife and family of four children: Isabel, Alfred, Elva and Gladys.

They travelled by train with all their belongings to Loughheed. After an overnight stay there they set out with horse and democrat in the morning for their new home. Life was lonely for people then. Elva remembers her mother spotting chimney smoke from a house in the distance. Mrs. Larson and her girls set out to look for this house and arrived at the home of the Christenson's, where the fellowship of friends was enjoyed and cherished.

A log structure was later built beside the soddy to make more room for the family. It was in this house that the Larson School District was organized in 1911. Later the district was renamed Coal Springs.

In 1919 Olaf began to build a large home. However,

due to Mrs. Larson's health problems the family moved to Vancouver where they spent one year. The following year they made their home in Mt. Vernon, Washington. Here they met the parents of Elmer Erickson, Mr. and Mrs. Saul Erickson.

The change of climate had not really helped Mrs. Larson, so the family returned to the Irma district in 1922. Olaf immediately set about to finish the 'big' house with the help of Louis Opheim and Oscar Lindquist. The children did their part, too, Elva and Gladys putting on laths before plastering the walls.

The members of the Larson family were all very musical and even before leaving for the coast, Olaf had organized and directed both a choir and a band. They even had proper uniforms which they wore. On one occasion the band played at the Edmonton Exhibition. These activities were enjoyed by many homesteaders in the early days.

Olaf died in 1943 after some time of ill health. Jenny made her home with daughter Elva and family until her death in 1959. Mrs. Larson's cheerful, friendly nature was an inspiration to everyone.

Isabel became Mrs. Y. Hubbs and lived in Vancouver and Washington until her death in 1971.

Alfred had a varied career. He worked in logging camps at the coast, later becoming a fireman in Vancouver. When Alfred applied for a fireman's job, he was asked: "Can you play the cornet?" When he answered in the affirmative, he was told, "Alright, you have the job." He became captain of his Fire Department several years before his retirement. He was married in 1929 to Florence Biddle and had three children: Ronald, Catherine and Marjorie.

Ronald lives in a Norwegian settlement at Poulsbo, Washington. He has two sons, Eric and Dana.

Catherine married Peter O'Brien in 1954. They have three children: David, who with his wife has been



The Olaf Larson home in 1914: Isabel, Elva, Mrs. Larson, Mrs. Olaf Larson, Gladys, and Alfred.

teaching at Hudson Hope, B.C., Julie, who is married and living in England and Robert at home.

Marjorie, who worked for the John Howard Society in Edmonton for a number of years, married Patrick Hogan in 1961. Her husband is a teacher in Courtney, B.C., and they have two children, Philip and Arlene.

Alfred was always very faithful in coming back to visit his mother and sister and family each year until his passing in 1976. Alfred's daughters and families carry on his tradition by visiting their aunt frequently.

Gladys married Jack Taylor of Chauvin. They lived in Edmonton for a while before moving to Seattle. Gladys was very talented at designing patterns for the clothing industry. She died in 1980.

Elva married Pete Spring. They remained on the Larson farm with their son Oren. Elva is the only remaining member of the Olaf Larson family and lives alone in the 'big' house since the passing of her husband and son.

OLAF P. LARSON AND FAMILY

Olaf Larson attended Coal Springs rural school up to grade eight. Then it was off to Camrose Lutheran College for high school. During that time he became interested in medicine. Money was scarce and university expensive so he chose to attend Camrose Normal School for teacher training as an alternative. In the fall of 1931 he started teaching in "Valley" rural school for a salary of less than \$800.00 yearly. One teacher taught all the courses and usually all the grades from 1-9. In two years he had saved enough money for a year at the University of Alberta.

Grants and loans were not handed out in the thirties so it was back to the classroom. Summer School was also a solution to the money problem. With perseverance and hard work Olaf pressed on until he had four degrees, the last one a doctorate in Education from the University of Oregon. High school teaching began in 1937 when he joined the staff of "one" in Irma. Mr. I. Reeds was the principal. By 1938 the salary had reached \$940.00 a year. That seemed enough for two so on August 21 he and Erna Johnson joined forces at the altar in Trinity Lutheran Church.

Erna was also a teacher and had succeeded Olaf at



Olaf and Erna Larson, 1937.

Valley School in 1933. The next three years continued in Irma.

The move in 1941 was to Wetaskiwin High School as Math and Science teacher. He became principal in 1942.

The Second World War was raging by this time and Olaf felt a call to serve his country. He volunteered in the Air Force. The call came in March 1943. Erna and a new baby were in the hospital at the time. In three weeks Olaf was enroute east to train. He had two short leaves before he went overseas for the duration of the war.

When he returned in 1945 he was a little older, a little wiser and more determined than ever to make every day of his life count. He had served 2 1/2 years as an education officer, mostly in England. Brooks area was the next stop where he had been appointed Superintendent of two school districts - Bow Valley and the E.I.D. This was a heavy assignment. There were two school boards, many rural schools, long distances, poor roads and an endless work-load. The conditions improved with the years as the districts were divided when the Units were formed.

Caran made her debut in Brooks in 1950. Her brother was 7 1/2 by that time. In 1959 the car was loaded, bags packed and all were destined for Eugene, Oregon for the last year of study. Both children were enrolled in American schools while Erna tried to coordinate everyone's activities. She became involved in I.B.M. machines and community efforts. Before leaving Eugene in 1960 the house in Brooks was sold and Olaf had been employed as the first superintendent of the public school system in Medicine Hat. Six years were spent there and many changes took place. Then came the last move. It was to fill a vacancy with the Lethbridge public school system as superintendent. While there Olaf received three awards - one being the "Distinguished Service Award" (Administrator of the year) May 1973 presented by the Provincial Council on the School Administration. In 1974 retirement age caught up with Olaf. He officially retired December 31, 1973 but acted on education committees, college boards, and survey's until his death March 5, 1979. He spiced up work with golf, hunting, church activities and service clubs.

Forty years of his life were devoted to education. He had never looked back to his high school dream. Son, Arthur is a criminal lawyer with Maxwell, Larson & Co., law firm in Lethbridge. Caran spent six years travelling, working and studying around the world. She completed her masters degree in Seoul, Korea and later taught in B.C.

PETER LARSON

At the turn of the century many settlers were attracted to Canada by the Canadian Government's promise of a quarter section of land for ten dollars if certain improvements were made. If you lived in the United States you could move your entire possessions for fifty dollars. It was such enticement as this that brought four men from Frazee, Minnesota, namely Peter Crown, Ole Sundean, Walter Wallace and Peter Larson, to Canada. On July 6th, 1906, these men disembarked from the

C.N.R. at Vermilion, Alberta.

They hired a team and democrat to bring them to the land that was listed for homestead purposes and each in turn, after inspecting available land, returned to Vermilion to file a claim at the Land Title's Office there. Peter Crown filed claim on the N.E. 10-47-9-W4th where Keith Currie now lives; Ole Sundean on the N.W. 12-47-9-W4th, today owned by Jerry Mark; Walter Wallace on the S.W. 38-47-9-W4th now owned by George Fischer and Peter Larson filed on the S.E. 14-47-9-W4th, presently owned by Don Lukens. After filing their claims all four men returned to Frazee, Minnesota.

The following year in April of 1907, Peter Larson returned to Canada to his homestead with his wife and two small children, Helen and Herb, again travelling via C.N.R. with "Settlers' Effects". These effects included two horses, five milk cows and a full line of farm machinery. Along with five hundred dollars that he had saved, the Peter Larson family started their pioneer days in the district.

Peter's wife and the children lived in Mannville for two weeks while he built a shell of a house 12' x 16'. Before winter a sod wall was built around it and a log building constructed for a barn-hen house combination. These logs were hauled from along the banks of the Battle River. Fifteen acres of land were also broken during this first summer.

In 1908 a lean-to was built onto the house. It was made of sod and lined with clay that he got from the alkali slough on the west side of the quarter.

Neither Ole Sundean nor Peter Crown had horses or equipment so they worked with Peter Larson to begin with. After two years the team of horses were traded to Henry Meyers for two white oxen. Oxen were stronger for the heavy work that needed to be done at the time. The last of the oxen died in 1918. In 1915 a team of fifteen hundred pound Clyde horses were purchased from Jack Rae for five hundred dollars.

The house that was built in 1914 lasted for fifty years when in 1964 it was destroyed by fire. The Frank Bacon family were it's occupants at the time. With the help of a man named Yalmar a triple granary was built in 1916 and in 1918 James Craig, senior, helped to build a barn that is still standing on the farmstead. The lumber for the barn cost one thousand two hundred dollars and was brought home during the winter months. Each time a load of grain was taken to town by wagon box, a load of lumber was brought home.

The first well that was dug in 1907 was later filled in to within ten feet from the top of the ground and used for an ice well where milk, cream and other perishable food was kept cool. In 1912 Roy Merry used his boring machine to dig a new well that is still there today. A machine shed was built in 1927 and in 1930 a lean-to was added to it to house two binders. The first tractor that was bought was for running the thresher and it wasn't until 1940 that farming was done with a tractor on this farm. More land was bought, N.W. 13-47-9-W4th now owned by Jerry Mark and the S.W. 13-47-9-W4th presently owned by Allan Larson.

The first crop in 1908 was seeded by hand (fifteen acres). A five foot Deering binder was used to cut this

first crop which was later threshed by Pete Moltree, who lived on the S.E. 7-47-9-W4th where the Kuwica farm is now. Moltree used a steam thresher. Along with the operator you also needed a man for hauling enough water to keep the steam engine rolling and a man to feed straw into the fire. Other men were needed in the field, bringing a total of twelve to fifteen men on a threshing gang. Other threshers who threshed for Peter Larson were Tom Coultman, Wally Prosser and Cap Larson. Later gasoline engines were used on threshing outfits.

Peter Larson emigrated from Göteborg, Sweden in about 1883 to Frazee, Minnesota, where there were jobs available in the sawmills. It was here that he met and married Clara Helgren in 1903. She had emigrated from Gävle, Sweden with an uncle, to Belle Plain, Minnesota, as a young girl. Peter played an accordian for dances in Minnesota. To this marriage six children were born after they moved to Canada, namely Arthur, Rupert, Angus (Red), Edythe, Marcus and Allan. Of this family Red bought and farmed land that was his uncle Victor's. Victor Larson was Peter's next younger brother who also emigrated from Sweden to Minnesota. Later Jerry Mark bought his land, N.W. 13-47-9-W4th from Red who then moved his family to Vermilion.

While Angus (Red) Larson was living on the farm he married Ruby McFeeter. They raised three children, Greg, Robert and Deborah. Greg presently lives and works in Vermilion. Robert married Hazel Meakins (Rae) and lives in Irma, and Debbie married James (Lucky) Hinton, Jr. and lives on their farm in the Saulteaux district north and across the Buffalo Coulee from the Orbindale area.

Peter Larson passed away in 1934 and his wife Clara (Helgren) Larson in 1939.

PHIL AND EVELYN LARSON FAMILY

Philip Larson and Evelyn Bauer were married June 8th, 1966. Evelyn was born and raised in the Mannville district, the eldest of a family of six children. I attended and graduated from the Mannville school and spent part of one year in Bible School. I then worked in the Mannville hospital till my marriage.

Phil was born and raised in the Irma district and attended Ross school a couple of years before going to Irma. We reside on the homefarm N.W. 26-46-9. At the passing of Phil's father in 1966 the responsibility fell on Phil. It was a great difference working and helping at home than to have the full load to carry. The first year just at harvest time our hired man quit, so it fell on me to drive the old International to haul the grain. Many were the fears I had then.

We raised pigs to help our income, just using the hip-roof barn and the lean-to as a farrowing barn. In March of 1971 the barn caught fire and burned to the ground and we lost ten sows with about ten nursing pigs each - ninety-eight pigs in all. This was really a setback as not only the barn went but we also lost shovels, forks, chop bin, pails - the small things you missed so much. We had many sows yet to farrow so we put up a steel quonset.



*Philip and Evelyn Larson
with daughter Linda and
sons Douglas and
Darren.*

The neighbors all turned out to help with this building, as time was running out for the rest of the sows that had to be under cover.

A year or so later we were able to build a farrowing and finishing barn, which meant a lot more work as we kept more pigs, but the work was easier. The feeding and cleaning were automatic.

In 1975 we found it necessary to get rid of all the stock as Phil had back problems and had to have a spinal fusion, which meant six months with no work. We decided to do just straight grain farming. It seemed the next few years were spent in brushing, breaking, picking roots and stones, but we have enjoyed good crops of rape and wheat.

In June of 1981 we moved into our new home which we really enjoy.

By this time our family had increased to three healthy children. Linda arrived June 20th, 1967, Douglas January 7th, 1969 and Darren October 29th, 1972.

All the children took music lessons, enjoy skating and the boys play hockey as well as belong to young people's club. Linda is in grade eleven, Douglas in grade nine and Darren in grade five.

One of the highlights of 1983 was an exchange student from Montreal. We really enjoyed this lovely girl. Linda has just left for Montreal to spend her three months as an exchange student. The Lord has really blessed us as a family.

MR. AND MRS. RICKARD (RICK) OLAI LARSON

by Jean Nicol (Larson)

My father, Rick, was born 14th. February 1899 in Fiskabygd, Norway and immigrated to Canada in May 1906 with his father and mother, "Cap" and Oliva Larson, sister Bertha (Bjork), brother Alf and sister Augusta (McInroy). Dad very nearly didn't make it to Canada. Apparently while they were on the boat en route, Dad, being a very curious seven year old was busying himself on deck exploring new surroundings, when he slipped on the wet deck and had it not been for

the quick action of a deck hand, he would have "fed the fishes". The family travelled by train from Halifax to Vermilion, a long trek for a mother with four young children and expecting a baby in the fall.

It was in Vermilion they decided to homestead the NW of 16-46-9 so a wagon and team of oxen were purchased and the family travelled the prairie trail to Mannville (about twenty miles as the crow flies). Here two cows were bought, then the family headed for the homestead thirty-two miles away. Grandma, accompanied by the three youngest children, started out with the wagon and oxen with instructions not to cross the (Buffalo) Coulee until Grandpa and Bertha, who were driving the cows,



*Rick and Bessie on
their wedding day
October 3, 1931.*

caught up to them. All went well despite the high water level of the coulee. En route to the homestead, they stopped at a settler's for drinking water and they were asked to pay for it. They first lived in a tent until a twelve by twelve house of single ply lumber covered with sod was erected on the highest hill of the quarter. Later a log house was built. During that summer seven acres were broken and two large stacks of hay were put up.

Louie was born that fall, November 25, 1906, and later Grandpa went to Edmonton to work in a lumber camp as did many men of the early days during winter months. There was Grandma with five children, oldest eleven, over five miles from Irma (barely established) and over two miles to neighbors. Truly a Pioneer! Dad said that was the worst winter, seven feet of snow, thirty-five foot drifts in places and the temperature dropped to sixty degrees below.

Ross school was built on the SW corner of SW 28-46-9 and Alf, Rick and Augusta attended for part of one year. (School was only held during the summer because cold and snow prevented children from coming during the winter). Ross was closed the next year because of lack of enrollment so the Larson children attended school in the basement of the Methodist Church in Irma.

In 1909, Grandpa "proved up" his homestead and "script" the N1/2 of 24-47-9 in the Albert district. In the spring of 1910, Dad and Alf were sent to the scrip with three oxen to break the land. On June 17th., the boys woke up to six inches of snow on the ground so hooked up their three oxen and drove nine miles home only to find no snow at the homestead so Grandpa made them

turn right around and go back to the scrip. Since Alf's shoes were wet, he decided to dry them in the oven. The shoes literally baked beyond wearing so he had to walk barefooted behind the plough. That summer, Alf and Rick broke thirty acres of land - quite a feat for thirteen and eleven year old boys!

In 1913, Cap's family moved to the scrip. No more school for Dad - it was all work and lots of it. A large house and barn presently standing on the NW 1/4 were built between 1915 and 1920. Their home was a welcome retreat for many weary travellers passing through the country. Food and shelter were always offered willingly. In those days a lamp was always left burning in a window as a guide to lost travellers. Grandma attended many young mothers as midwife as well as raising her own family of eight. Anne (Spring) was born February 7, 1909, Haakon on November 29, 1911 and Erling on September 4, 1915.

Dad liked horses and he owned a team which were very speedy when hitched to the buggy. He loved to dance and if there was a barn or school dance within twenty-five miles Dad was usually there. Even in harvest, there were times when he'd come home in time to feed the horses, change his clothes, have breakfast and go on the threshing rig.

Alf lived on Dad's land from 1917 to 1928 and at first when Mother came to board at the Cap Larson home, she thought Rick had all the kids because Grandma always referred to the kids at Rick's.

Mother, Bessie Hill Larson nee Scott, was born in Musselburgh, Scotland July 2, 1898 and came to Edmonton in April 1907 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Scott and sister Jenny. Mum attended Syndicate



Jean, Bruce, Bessie, Rick and Scott Larson - 1953.

Avenue Public School and took piano lessons prior to their move to a farm north of Kinsella in 1910. There were no schools and Mum worked very hard on the farm side by side with her Dad. In 1918, Rodino school opened so Mum and Jenny at last had a school to attend. Mum being nearly twenty, soon completed grade nine requirements and went to Norwood School in Edmonton to complete grade twelve. She attended University of Alberta graduating in 1926 with a Bachelor of Science Degree, obtained a permanent teaching certificate from Normal School in Calgary and began teaching in 1927 at

Albert School boarding at the home of Cap Larson. In 1930 she went to Coal Springs for two years boarding at Olaf Larson's. Mum and Dad were married on October 3, 1931 in Wainwright and Mum taught till the end of that term for about seven hundred and fifty dollars a year.

Our homesite was located on the SE of 20-46-9, three quarters of a mile south of the Ross School and the large barn Dad had built about 1929 remains a landmark of the community and can be seen for miles.

I was born September 10, 1933, Scott December 7, 1935 and Bruce July 31, 1937 so Mum was very busy raising us during the depression and trying to make ends meet. Mum was a very good cook and we never were hungry and as far as I can remember we were never short of clothes but then we were very young and weren't taken out very much. By the time I started school in 1940, the depression was over and the War was on. Ironically, Canada went into W.W.2 on my sixth birthday, Japan declared war on U.S. on Scott's sixth birthday and the atomic bomb fell on Hiroshima six days after Bruce's eighth birthday. On my third birthday, Miss Edith Watson (Raham) teaching at the Ross school was shot by her boyfriend and later rode her horse to our place where a doctor was called and she was taken to the Wainwright Hospital. Edith survived this ordeal and later came to board at our house to finish her term.

Mum joined the Irma Women's Institute about 1937 and was a very active and staunch member with strong beliefs of helping the underprivileged and unfortunate. She held all executive offices at one time or another and was instrumental in establishing the Irma Cemetery Fund and served as Secretary-Treasurer for over twenty-five years. It was quite a task for Mum to drive the horse and buggy or sleigh and take three young children five miles to town for these monthly meetings. Mum also served as Trustee on the Ross School District Board.

Dad farmed with horses until about 1939 when he traded the horses in on an Oliver tractor. I remember being in the barn one night when Dad was grooming the horses and I was standing behind a team which pulled back in the stall, pulled the manger out and backed up into the stall behind them. In order for me to get out of the way, I had run into this stall and hid under the manger, scared to death. Dad told me to come out between the horses and boy was I frightened. I was sent to the house crying my heart out and when Mum asked me what was the matter I said "The horses broke the barn all to h---!"

Us kids had always been told that if we swore, Grandpa Larson would cut our tongues out and this worried me greatly. I was always afraid for Scott. Once while visiting there, Scott said a bad word. I was scared. Later Scott was missing and no one could find him anywhere. Someone looked down the road and there was Scott hot footing it for home. He must have been scared too and decided to leave.

Dad farmed two sections of land which meant we had various hired men. Clarence Larson worked a lot during the early forties when Bruce was quite young. One day Cliff Jones delivered gas to the farm and beside the gas barrels was an old tractor tire which had a hornet's nest

in it. Something was said about the nest and Bruce replied saying the bees didn't bother him but they sure liked Clarence and with that Bruce kicked the tire and a bee stung Clarence right on the neck. Everyone laughed but Clarence - of course!

One beautiful March day, Mum, Dad and I went to town with the cutter and horses, one which Dad was breaking to drive. While in town the wind got up and it started snowing hard and drifting - a real blizzard. By the time we were ready to leave, the roads had drifted deep in snow. I hadn't dressed very warmly so Mum wrapped me in an old coat of hers and left my arms inside and buttoned it up. Well on the way home, the cutter upset and I was tipped out head first in the snow. Mum landed on top of me and the groceries scattered all over. Dad stepped out on the high side and was able to hold the horses but I was frightened cause I couldn't get my arms out and was smothering in the snow.

Mum's housework on the farm was very laborious, tiring and long hours. She had to bake bread, churn butter, can beef, pork and chickens (the only means of preserving it), cured bacon in salt brine, scrub wooden floors, wash clothes on a scrub board with lye soap, boil the towels on the stove to try and keep them white, iron with the flat iron so even on the hottest summer day, the stove had to be burning to heat the irons, bake bread or just to keep the water in the reservoir or teakettle hot for washing. Besides the housework there were always chickens and turkeys to care for, in spring clucking hens would be set with eggs to hatch and you always had to watch out for coyotes, skunks, weasels and owls killing the poultry. In spring as well there were always big gardens including an acre or so of potatoes and of course the weeding all summer. Mum did the milking and fed pigs and cattle too when Dad was busy working in the fields but this was more after he got the tractor because when he drove the horses, their work day was shorter. Mum's salvation was in reading. At night when us kids were put to bed, she would sit at the kitchen table by the light of the coal-oil lamp and read.

A farmer's life in the '30's and '40's was not an easy life. Long hours of driving up to twelve head of horses and breaking the land, picking roots and rocks (which we had more than our share). Some land had very few rocks while other had numerous and all sizes. The machinery frequently broke down because of the rocks. Dad had over a hundred head of cattle and they had to be watched over in summer and fed and watered in the winter. Feed had to be hauled - one winter he hauled feed over five miles, six days a week, loading and unloading by the fork full. Dad suffered greatly from ulcers and a bad back so farming was always a difficult and painful task but he had to keep on going. Although Dad could not read or write, he could add and subtract very well. He amazed me in this aspect.

In December 1947, Mum and Dad bought the Ed Elford acreage on the north edge of Irma and we moved to town. Dad continued farming and Scott worked on the farm from 1950 till 1955 when he went to work for the M.D. of Minburn on a road gang. Later he worked for Dad again but the love for truck driving took him to Vermilion where he was employed by Vermilion Tran-

sport. Scott presently lives in Edmonton and he has driven for Economy Carriers for over ten years. During the past five years, Scott has competed in Trucker's Rodeos and has done very well.

Bruce quit school in 1952 and worked on the farm with Dad. His great love was playing pool and he was a shark. August 12, 1955 was the saddest day of our lives when Bruce was fatally injured when the tractor he was operating tipped and pinned him beneath it.

When I finished High School, I was employed at the Bank of Montreal and later the Municipal District of Wainwright. Sandy and I were married on January 19, 1957 and our only child, Barbara, has just completed her Bachelor of Education.

Dad retired from farming in 1961 when he sold the farm to George Fischer. He drove tractor doing field work for different farmers but his retirement years were restless. He enjoyed a game of cards and the hotel shuffleboard. Dad died at home on December 28, 1975.

Mum enjoyed being in town. She liked visiting with people, belonging to the O.O.R.P. and was treasurer for three years, received her fifteen year pin. She spent many hours playing scrabble, canasta and bolivia with her numerous friends. Mum suffered deteriorating health for a number of years spending her last nine months in the hospital. She passed away on August 30, 1976.

When Mum was a baby, a young friend said to Grandma "Oh Mrs. Scott, your baby's going to cross the ocean seven times." When Grandma said how do you know, she replied, "Oh, she has a mole on the sole of her foot." Well at that time the family had no idea of coming to Canada so Grandma thought of it as a wild idea. However not too many years later of course the family did cross the ocean. In 1911, the family returned to visit relatives and Mum visited them again in 1929, this bringing her total crossings to five. I believe this was always in the back of Mum's mind cause she mentioned it to me often. In 1973, she and her sisters, Jenny and Margaret, visited in Scotland again and then the former young friend's prediction had come true.

RONALD AND CORREEN LARSON

by Correen Larson

Ron Larson was born in Mannville Hospital in 1939, to Louie and Maxine Larson. He lived with his parents, eight miles north of Irma on S.E. 2-47-9-W4 and received his education at Education Point School. He now has bought and farms the land where this school was. In 1969, Ron married Correen Prosser, daughter of Ervin "Gus" and Louisa Prosser. She had been born in Wainwright Hospital in 1950. They made their first home in town, a little house owned by Mrs. Arlie Patterson, located where the present Manor is. This little home had many stories to tell, as quite a few newly married couples had lived in it. It was often good for a couple hours conversation, discussing the little things that happened when certain people had lived in it. They didn't need an alarm clock while living in this home, as every morning Bill Guy backed his bus out across the road, gave a couple blasts on the horn and went to get the school-bus



Ron and Correen Larson and children. Shelley - 9 yrs., Roxanne - 5 yrs., Lee - 7 yrs., Stacey - 10 yrs.

kids. You could set your clock by him. Ron and Correen's first baby Stacy, a boy, was born before they moved from this home to the farm where Ron had grown up. Then they had three more children Shelly, Lee, Roxy in the next five years.

Ron and Correen have added to their land and improved their machinery with the times. Many hours have been spent in improving the land as they were blessed with some rocky and hilly terrain. Correen, having lived all her life town style, as the spoilt child of a teacher, has learned a lot about this "easy life as a farmer". She can drive most of the machinery, but still has many close-calls with the big trucks.

With four children, the Larson vehicle is pretty well always seen going south on the Mannville road. The boys are both active in hockey, while the girls use their energy in jazz and tap dancing. As Mom loves to curl, the arena and curling rink see the Larson family most of the winter. The summer sees their mini-home heading to or from the lake or just to the ball games.

The Ron Larson family still live on the farm north of Irma and try to take an active part in most of the activities involved in their hometown and the North Albert Community.

TORLIEF LARSON

I, Torlief was born in August of 1910 in the aforementioned sod house. I took my public school at Coal Springs School and not being too interested in school I decided to help at home on the farm. I spent two winters working in logging camps skidding logs for one dollar a day. I also spent two years at Vermilion School of Agriculture.

I am very interested in hunting and fishing. In the

1920's I trapped coyotes and weasels. Coyotes brought from fifteen-twenty dollars and weasels up to four dollars which was good money in those days. I was also interested in sports and played baseball and hockey for many years. In those days I walked to town (ten miles) played and then walked home.

In 1945 I married Annie (Nan) MacKay from south of Irma. We have four children. Sonja the oldest is married to Len Skori. They live north of Jarrow and have four girls: Beret, Shawna, Darla and Krista. Lorna is married to Geoff Bate and lives in Calgary. They have two children; Cathy and Brian. Lavina is married to Doug Stanton and lives in Edmonton. John the youngest is single and has bought and now operates most of the farm including my Dad's homestead and John Peterson's homestead. He has employment in Edmonton during the winter months.

My wife and I still live on the farm south of Jarrow where we moved to in 1964 from the original homestead site.



Back Row: Len Skori, Lavina (Larson) Stanton, Doug Stanton, Geoff Bate, Cathy Bate, John Larson. Middle Row: Sonja (Larson) Skori, Beret Skori, Lorna (Larson) Bate with Brian, Nan and Torlief Larson. Front Row: Darla Skori, Shawna Skori, Krista Skori.

SMILE

When things don't go to suit you,
And the world seems upside
down,
Don't waste your time in fretting,
But dry away that frown.

Since life is oft perplexing,
'Tis much the wiser plan,
To bear all trials bravely,
And smile when ere you can.

I learned this as a child.

MR. AND MRS. VICTOR LARSON

Victor Larson was born in Wing, Sweden on February 17th, 1872. It is not known when he came to the U.S.A. but in 1909 he came to Canada and filed on S.W. 24-48-8-W4th and returned to the States. He came back to Alberta in the spring of 1910 and proved up on his homestead by 1913. He bought the S.E. 24-48-8-W4th in 1914.



Charlotte and Victor Larson in 1940.

Charlotte was born March 23rd, 1880 in Minnesota, U.S.A. the eldest child of Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Henry. She was united in marriage to Carl Victor Larson while in Frazee, Minnesota and they came to Irma in 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Larson returned to Minnesota in the fall of 1914 where they resided until 1918 when they returned to Irma. They farmed in the Albert district until Mr. Larson's passing on July 28th, 1945, when Mrs. Larson moved into Irma. Larsons had no children.

The Larsons loved to play cards and the Pete Larson boys enjoyed going to Uncle Victor's for a game. Allan recalls how they enjoyed Aunt Charlotte's good cooking.

Charlotte passed away June 12th, 1972 at the age of 92. Both are buried in Irma cemetery.

THE CHARLES LATTNER FAMILY

by William Lattner

Mr. Charles Lattner was born in Blair, Ontario on July 29, 1885 on the Lattner farm just a few miles southwest of Berlin, Ontario, now Kitchener. He went to school from the farm. In later years he started a small machine shop on Queen Street in Kitchener. In 1908 Dad took a job with the C.N.R. and went out West. He built the station in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and from there he went to Clover Bar, Alberta and built the station there. He then went to a place nine miles east of Irma and built a house and pumphouse for the C.N.R. He ran the pumping station until 1916. In 1912 he married Edna Olive Michael who was born in Elma, Wisconsin. They had eight children - two girls and six boys. Charles read a book on welding by an outfit from the U.S.A. So he started welding. He had to buy his gas from Winnipeg.

He had the first welding outfit between Edmonton and Winnipeg. He started welding for the farmers in the area and they asked him to build a machine shop and in 1916 he built the shop. Dad obtained a license to operate a garage. He sold gas and oil, repaired cars, tractors and gas engines. He bought a light plant in early 1920 and supplied the town of Irma with power in the early 1930's. He later sold the light plant to Mr. Ed Elford, who later sold it to the Calgary Power Company. Charles built a foundry to the machine shop early in 1930 and made gray iron castings. Some of the parts he made were for pump jacks, rod weeders, grain loaders and he also did tin-smithing. All of us children had to work after school and on Saturdays. He trained us well and we don't regret it. We raised a big garden. Willie drowned on June 21, 1920 in front of the shop in Irma as a result of a cloud burst.

In 1940 we moved to Kitchener, Ontario and Dad started a shop on Water Street. He later built a new plant on Wendell Avenue and Border Avenue. After the Second World War, Roy, Harry and myself came into the business with Dad, George and Warren. We did a lot of big work for paper mills across the country - V-belts, molds for B.F. Goodrich, gears and sprockets for Canada and the U.S.A.



Bill Lattner and wife and grandson and Agnes (Lattner) Findlay.

On October 23, 1955, Dad passed away. The boys went on running the shop, bought land on Hoffman Street and built a new plant. Mother died on September 30, 1979 and brother George on November 14, 1979. The rest of the family are well, most of us are retired and Roy rents the shop to some of his men.

WILLIAM LAWSON

I arrived in Canada by boat in the spring of 1927. England had just suffered from a general strike (1926), and as a coal miner, I was being forced back to work for less pay and longer hours. Canada appeared to offer better prospects for the future.

I travelled to Winnipeg by train as this was the location of the colonization department for Western Canada. I spent three days in Winnipeg looking for a job before hearing of a farmer in Alberta who needed three men to

pile brush. The farmer turned out to be Jesse Allen of Irma. I went to work for thirty dollars a month, including room and board. I worked here until fall and then helped with the threshing. Haun's also needed help with harvest and here I received four dollars per day. During the winter of that year I cut brush with an axe. The two men who arrived at Allen's with me both returned to England - one of his own accord, and the other was deported for stealing a horse!

In 1930 I bought a quarter section of land at Hawkins (five miles east of Irma) and rented the Wilbraham farm. Winter of 1931 found me back in England for a visit with family.

I returned to Canada and rented the Ackroyd farm and hauled water to build the skating rink at Avonglen. I hauled water from Ford's and New's for one cent per barrel.



*Betsy McKean,
Arnold girls,
Marjorie McKean,
Bill Lawson, 1943.*

In 1938 I bought the present homesite for 3500 bushels of wheat, and built a small three-room house. In 1939, the Second World War broke out and England received heavy bombing attacks. My two nieces, Margery and Betsy McKean, arrived from England to live with me. Margery, twelve, and Betsy, eight, attended school at Roseberry. They must have faced considerable adjustment in moving from England to rural Alberta. In 1943, the girls moved to Irma and lived with the Arnold family so that Margery could attend high school. They returned to England in 1945 - it was -30 F when their train left Irma station. Margery, now Mrs. Bill Wilson, has two children and lives in Middlesborough, England. Betsy, Mrs. Ian Easton, also has two children and lives in Qatar - one of the United Arab Emirates.

During these years I served as a school board trustee both locally and divisionally. I was initially responsible for thirteen rural schools but due to centralization this number was reduced to two (Passchendale and Albert) by the time I left office.

I returned to England again in 1948. At that time I owed Carl Anquist a considerable amount of money but told him that I would like to go to England. He said it was all right with him but I'd better have a return ticket!

In 1952, I married Hazel Younker and we have raised seven children. Our rapidly growing family necessitated a new house in 1957. Our sons, Bill and Charles farm, and our five daughters are teaching - Sandra at Dewberry;



Lawson family. Charles, Carol (Mrs. B. Lawson, Jr.), Hazel, Bill, Sandra, Bill, Jr., Kathleen, Deborah. Seated: Marjorie, Betty, taken in June, 1979.

Marjorie at Winfield; Deborah at Paradise Valley; Kathleen at Edgerton; Betty at the Holt Colony, Irma. We built our present house in 1979 and Bill, his wife Carol, and our two grandsons live in our old home.

JAMES LENNON FAMILY

Settlers coming to this part of Alberta prior to 1907 had to come either to Edmonton via C.P.R. or to Mannville via Canadian Northern Railway. From these points they travelled by whatever means were available - Red River carts, ox team, a horse and an ox, or walking.

The Lennon Family from Dacre, Ontario, was one of these families. They arrived in Mannville late in the fall of 1905. Mrs. Manson, Mrs. Lennon's mother, accompanied them. On October 30, 1905, she filed on a homestead the S.W. of 4-46-8-4. James Lennon filed on the N.W. 4-46-8-4 on April 11, 1906.

At that time the family comprised of Mr. and Mrs. Lennon and four children - Allen, Leslie, Sadie and Lornal.

To provide adequate housing for the family Jim built a two storey log house. It was hard work as logs were hauled some distance by ox team. Two more sons, Harry and Earl, were added to the family group.

Jim was a jovial person and could tell many interesting stories of those early years. Driving ox teams sometimes presented problems. One story I remember him telling was about the day his ox team ran away. It was a warm day in mid summer and he was busy breaking some more land with the walking plow. All at once up went their tails and off to a slough they dashed dragging the walking plow. The heel flies had attacked them. He had to wade into the slough to get the oxen and plow out.

This family were wonderful neighbors. Always had time to help wherever help was needed.

When this area changed from being a Local Improvement District in December 1912 Jim was the first reeve of the newly formed Battle River Municipality. He also was "road foreman" for several years, directing the

making of roads within the Municipality.

In 1916 he bought the N.W. 17-45-8-4, which was C.P.R. land in the Sunny Brae School District. They built a house there in 1917 and moved from the homestead to this new location. He sold the homestead to Henry (Hank) Farthing.

In 1925 he sold this land to Mr. Schonert and moved into Irma. In 1927 the family moved to Merville, Vancouver Island. He farmed there for sixteen years and then retired to nearby Sandwick V.I. Here tragedy struck the family. Mrs. Lennon disappeared from the Sandwick home in 1943 and has not been heard from since. It was thought that she had wandered into a swamp back of Merville and became lost, but despite an intensive search she was never found.

After the family left Irma news of the young folk became scarce. As far as known the following is a very brief account of them.

Allen - the eldest enlisted in the army of World War I in 1915. He was killed overseas in 1917. Leslie lived at Courtney, B.C. He married in the late fifties. He had no family. He and two other men were working with a log boom. The two men fell into the water. Leslie tried to save them but lost his own life under the log boom. The other two got out of the water. Lornie was in the army of World War II. He was married and had a daughter. He passed away in the fifties. Sadie had no family. Harry and Irene lived at Courtney. They had a son and a daughter. Both the son and Harry are gone. As far as is known Sadie and Earl are also gone.

Jim passed away in September 1945.

ARNOLD LIEN FAMILY

Arnold and Faye Lien (formerly Storbakken) of the Lougheed-Sedgewick districts moved to the Irma area in November, 1965. They live on the farm previously owned by Jack and Hattie Halvorsen, three miles south of Jarrow in the Coal Springs district.

Arnold and his brother Kenneth purchased the Halvorsen farm in 1960 and both farmed it until 1965 when Arnold married and purchased the other half from his brother. In June, 1965, the house formerly occupied by Jack and Hattie was sold to George Knutslien of Ryley, Alberta and moved to that area. In July of the same year, Arnold and Faye purchased a Kallal house at Tofield and moved it as one whole house and set it on a new foundation located in the same spot as the old Halvorsen house. After working on the interior of the house all summer, Arnold and Faye moved into their new home on November 30, 1965.

Three girls were born to this marriage; Camelia Joanne, Carrie Marie and Candace Faye. Cammie and Carrie received all their education at Irma and graduated from the Irma High School in 1983. They are presently attending classes at the University of Alberta where Cammie is enrolled in the Bachelor of Science degree in nursing and Carrie is enrolled in Education majoring in physical education. Both girls were actively involved in sports during their school years winning numerous medals and class ribbons. Carrie also did well in the



Candace, Carrie, Arnold, Cammie, Faye Lien.

figure skating field and attended test days and competitions all over the province. Candace is attending the Irma elementary school and is in grade five at the present time.

Arnold has been an active curler in the Irma Curling Club during the time he has lived in the area. He also played a part in the arranging, planning and construction of the present curling rink.

Arnold and Faye hope to make their home in the Irma area for many more years.

THE LIKNESS STORY

by Doris Likness

The Oscar Likness family can scarcely be called "old timers", yet forty-six years in an area constitute usually better than one-half a lifetime.

In October, 1934, Oscar Likness, his wife Doris, their two small sons, Orville and Lawrence, accompanied by Oscar's brother, Dendrew, fled the parched lands one hundred miles to the south. They rented the J. MacDonald farm south of Irma and soon had many friends in the district. Sharon Lutheran church was the bond they discovered and church activities would become an important part of their lives. The boys attended Glenholm school. In April, 1935, a little girl was born. At that time of year there was a great deal of snow so Dr. Greenberg had to make his rounds with horses and sled. Meanwhile Mrs. Charlie Jackman, their nearest neighbor, gave a helping hand.

In the spring of 1940 Oscar and Dendrew bought the Lisson farm five miles south of Jarrow. Now the boys went to Coal Springs school.

The war years brought a great dearth of teachers, so

Doris decided to return to teaching for a while to help out. She taught first (1941-42) at Metropolitan, then Coal Springs the following year. The latter school closed for a year because of a very small enrolment. Doris taught another year at Metropolitan, then back to Coal Springs until its closure in June 1950. It was sad to see the closure of these rural schools which had served the district in so many ways, but these happenings were occurring all over, not without a valiant struggle in many cases.

The children were now growing up, all having completed their elementary school education, so Doris felt she could keep teaching if she wished. There were two separate periods at Jarrow, a year at Irma, six years at Kinsella high school, one year in Viking. Her last six years were spent in the Irma high school. She finished her career as a volunteer teacher in Papua, New Guinea.

During the years the home situation changed. Dendrew died in November, 1953. Oscar carried on until his health began to fail. He died in March, 1969. He and Doris had a wonderful trip to Europe in the summer of 1966. The highlight was a visit to relatives in Norway and a tour of that beautiful land. Doris and Orville have made their home in Sedgewick since July, 1980. Orville is Secretary-treasurer of the County of Flagstaff. Lawrence became a Lutheran pastor and he is serving a parish in Toronto at the present time. He and his wife Doreen have two sons. Mark is now married and is the proud father of a little daughter. Steven works in Saskatoon.

Norma became a nurse. She is married and lives in Edmonton. There are two children, Kenneth and Leah-Ann

The years have gone by quickly. The good years spent in the Irma district will never be forgotten.



Likness Family, 1941. Oscar, Orville, Norma, Lawrence, Doris.

Depend on the rabbit's foot if you will, but remember it didn't work for the rabbit.

LINDBECK FAMILY

My father, Carl Lindbeck, came from Denmark in 1910 and rented land in the Holden area. In 1911 the rest of the family followed and they lived at Holden for sixteen years.

I, Christian Lindbeck born in Horsens, Denmark, came with my family to Canada in 1911. I remember we had to stop at Newfoundland for some reason and then got shots for smallpox. From there we went to New York where we boarded a train for Holden.

The family grew to eight. We lived in a variety of shacks. Dad and I dug wells by hand to augment our income. We also cut brush with an axe. In those days on the farm you raised pigs, cows and chickens so you wouldn't starve to death, but had to worry about getting your taxes paid.



Viggo Lindberg and Chris Lindbeck, 1929.

The Lindbeck family bought a farm near Jarrow and moved there in 1929. The family worked together and when you worked out all your money went home. When fourteen years old I worked on threshing rigs where you hauled up to twenty loads of bundles a day. You had to hold your end up or you didn't stay. You got blisters on your blisters!

In 1930 I married Dorothy Glasgow of Irma. To this union three children were born. Our daughter lives in Edmonton, son Alf lives in Wainwright while our second son was tragically killed along with his two children in an accident on highway fourteen in 1962.

After my wife passed away in 1962 I lived in British Columbia for awhile before moving to Wainwright in 1977. At present I make my home in the Battle River Lodge.

Of the eight Lindbeck children six still survive and live at Bruce, Viking and Edson, Alberta, as well as in British Columbia.

SEW THERE!

*I'll very gladly darn a sock;
Button to shirt I will attach.
I'll mend a seam, sew up a hem,
But I refuse to patch a patch.*

LINDBERG FAMILY

by Ellen Loveseth

In 1915 the Lindberg family, from Sonder-Farup, a little town near Riebe, Denmark, set sail for Canada. They travelled on the Danish ship Oscar II via Oslo to New York City, then west by train to Montreal and finally by Grand Trunk Railway to Edmonton, Alberta, where they stayed the first winter.

The family included Truels and Marie Lindberg and their sons Viggo and Carl, each with his new bride.

In February 1916 they bought property in the Batt Valley, six miles north of Jarrow, for ten dollars/acre from George Batt. Mr. Batt had come to the area from Virginia in 1906. He had purchased Boer War Script, five quarters of script for homestead land.

The Lindberg families settled in on their adjoining farms. Truels and Marie on the S.W. 2-47-10; Viggo and Otilie (Tilda) on the S.E. 34-46-10 and Carl and Petrea on the N.W. 34-46-10. The first years were extremely busy, building houses for the young couples, purchasing dairy and range cattle and breaking more land. Nothing had prepared them for the long cruel winters and months of isolation - these were the hardest things to contend with. The families prospered and grew. Carl and Petrea had three children, Elva, Henry and Asta. Viggo and Tilda had four daughters, Ingrid, Aneta, Stella and Ellen.

I, the youngest daughter, Ellen, will try to relate some of the pioneer day stories as told to me by Mom and Dad.



Viggo Lindberg family in 1915.

HALF-WAY-HOUSE

There were no roads north of Jarrow when my folks arrived. There was just a prairie trail winding around the sloughs and bluffs of poplar and willow. Many of the settlers to the north of Mom and Dad's place had only oxen to drive. The names of some of these families were Brighton, Wilson, Shippy, Bishop and Woods. In the

summer they had problems getting to town for the oxen, pestered by heel flies, would run into a slough, often overturning the wagon and passengers in the process. In the winter they would haul grain to town. By the time the oxen reached my folks' place, about halfway to town, their cloven hoofs would be raw and bleeding from the ice and snow, so they would borrow Dad's team of horses to take the grain the other six miles to Jarrow. Back they would come in the evening, have some supper with Mom and Dad, hook up the oxen and head out in the black of night with six miles to go through the hills and winter cold to home. Thus the Viggo Lindberg home became a halfway house, where food and often lodging for the night were always available. Nothing was ever asked or given for this hospitality; it was the code of the west at that time.

LEARNING ENGLISH

I can remember my Mom telling us kids what a time she had to learn to speak English, because she never went anywhere to use it. She finally decided to venture forth to town on her own with "Brownie" and the buggy, a crate of eggs and her home-churned butter to trade for groceries. Her butter, which was always sweet because it was stored in the ice cellar, was always in demand. She soon learned the names of the grocery items and handled the financing situation as well.



Mother Lindberg, Mrs. Webb and Ingrid in 1924.

WINTER WEATHER

The winter that all the pioneers in Alberta still recall with dread was 1919-20. The snow came early and it continued to snow. Feed supplies were used up by Christmastime. Straw barn roofs, manure piles and even willows were cut for feed for the cattle. Greenfeed bundles were sent in from Sask. for ten-twenty cents apiece, but who could afford to buy them? Cattle died by the hundreds.

The winter of 1929 was the exact opposite. It was an open winter. Wagons were used all winter long. My Dad and his Cousin Chris Nim cut poplars and hauled them home to be sawn up for firewood using a wagon.

TRACTORS AND THRESHING MACHINES

Dad bought his first tractor in 1918, a steel wheeled Case 1018. He broke 75 acres on the C.P.R. quarter

south of our home with a two bottom plow. In 1921 he bought his first threshing machine, a Woods Brothers Hummingbird from Wainwright for \$1,200. Fuel was \$4-5 a barrel. Workers were paid \$7.00 a day with team and \$4.00 for field pitchers. In 1925 Dad bought an International Titan. He had a threshing outfit for about 15 years. The fellows who usually worked with him were Tom Candy, Delmar Edmunds, Bob Grant, Young and Marbrey.

During the thirties Dad went back to using horses. J.M. Moore had a Hartpar that did all the threshing in the valley during those years. Crops only yielded six to eight bushels per acre because of the drought. Wheat sold for forty cents per bushel and oats were five cents per bushel. Dad sold four yearlings for \$26 and that's not each. Cows sold for \$3-4, and one neighbour, Martin Wesley, got 85 cents for an old cow.

In the later years "The Company" started threshing. This was a crew made up of Whiddens, Bridgemans, Ahlfs and Moores. Other outfits that threshed during the 40's and 50's were Holts, Bridgemans, Oracheskis and the Hutterites.

Dad didn't have a tractor again until 1948 when he bought a little Fordson.



Grandparents, Henry, Elva and Asta Lindberg.

BATT SCHOOL BOARD

The school board was made up of local farmers. The first school board Jim Lennox, Sam Murray and Harvey Dennison were appointed by the school administrator in Edmonton. After that the board was elected by the local people themselves at their annual meeting. The board levied the school taxes themselves, hired the teachers and looked after all school maintenance. My Dad served as secretary for over 15 years. The schools were taken over by the municipalities in the 1940's.

TELEPHONE LINES

The first telephone came to the district in 1917-18. Every family was responsible for the mile of line by their farm, supplied their own poles, bought their own telephone boxes and paid \$50 per share to cover the cost of wire and other expenses. Frank Murray was the first secretary and Earl Moore took over shortly after. Dad was the next secretary and held that position for 20 years. George Theroux was the lineman. He was allowed to



Mr. and Mrs. Viggo Lindberg, Ellen, Stella and Anita.

charge \$1.00 per hour by persons owning land that the telephone ran beside. However, many times during the 30's that became impossible to collect.

The Viggo Lindberg family sold out in 1953 to Joe Mack Holt. The Hutterites now have Carl's land and Clifton Holt farms Truels and Viggo's land. Viggo and Tilda moved to Portland, Oregon, where their eldest daughter lived. Stella also married and lives in Oregon. Aneta married Persh Sutter of Lougheed and now lives in B.C. Ellen married Einer Loveseth of Viking and they live on their farm at Viking. On February 20th, 1965 Viggo and Tilda celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Tilda passed away February 17, 1973 and Viggo now lives at Vialta Lodge Viking.

ERLAND LINDQUIST FAMILY

by Peter Lindquist

Erland Werner Lindquist was born in Sweden in 1864. He and his brother Oscar moved to North Dakota in 1895. Oscar stayed in the United States and Erland returned to Sweden two years later. In 1898 he married Anna Huld, born 1876. Five of their children were born in Sweden: Edith in 1899, Erland in 1900, Olga in 1902, Peter in 1903 and Werner in 1905. Erland was a brick-maker, so the family moved often, and finally settled in Lingbo where he worked at the brickyards.

In 1912 they decided to come to Canada and were booked to sail on the maiden voyage of the Titanic. However, the Titanic was over-booked and all fares were changed to first class, so Erland, Anna and children took a later voyage.

They homesteaded the NE 1/4 of 16-45-10 of which only thirty acres were broken. The original homesteader had built a small house on the land and left it, so they got the only homestead left in the district.

Oscar moved from North Dakota to the Jarrow district and built Coal Springs school in 1914, the school they all went to. Two more children were born in Canada; Isaac in 1914 and Helen in 1917. After Erland's death in 1931 Anna stayed on the farm. Later on she lived with Helen

in Edmonton. She passed away in August, 1966.

Edith married Martin Jacobs and had two children, Elmer and Winnie. She passed away in 1983. Erland married Iva Bovencamp. They had four daughters, Dorothy, Ruby, Elsie and Joyce. He lives in Viking now. Olga married Bror Nyblom. They had two daughters, Elvie and Elmera. She lives in Edmonton. Peter married Margaret Heron. They live in Taber and have one daughter, Corrine. Werner was married to Myrtle Pete. They had one son, Harley. Werner died in 1969. Isaac passed away in 1950. Helen is married to Lawrence Fuder. They live in the Edmonton district and have three children, Bryce, Colin and Connie.

JAMES LINGLEY FAMILY

by Jim Lingley

I lived at home north of Jarrow with Dad, Mom and brother Bill until 1957. While living at home I did odd jobs working for farmers and I especially remember harvest time stooking and pitching bundles. Although it was hard work for a slim fourteen year old (because that was the age when I started doing this), I enjoyed it and I do remember the good meals the women provided. I also worked on Highway 14 as flagman when the road crew was paving it - quite a bit easier than pitching bundles. Later on I loaded gravel trucks at the crusher south of Kinsella.

In 1957, I moved north of Kinsella to the Bill Boyd farm to try my luck at batching. The quack grass grew like crazy and the gophers ate up all the profit on the crop land. I had a flock of sheep while I was at the homeplace at Jarrow which I took to the Boyd farm. I figured I could make a mint on this farm like every farm boy's dream, but with bushland and hilly country surrounding this parcel of land, it was ideal breeding country for coyotes. I recall one afternoon I went out to check the flock of sheep and to my surprise two coyotes had killed four lambs weighing around eighty pounds - one half a lamb was eaten and the others left. It seemed like they always took the best, so I wasn't making much profit. Along with farming I worked in the B.A. Garage in Kinsella which was managed by John Daugherty, with Louis Pederson as an employee and a watch-dog named Bob. Wages at that time were much lower - thirty-five dollars per week for a front end man with little experience. Wages increased as time went on. Examples of other prices were: one quart of oil thirty-five to sixty-five cents, depending on grade; one gallon gas thirty-five cents for second grade - thirty-eight cents for first grade; grease job - oil change one dollar and fifty cents plus oil and filter; good grade tires - twenty-eight dollars apiece; cowboy jeans - four dollars and twenty-five cents; big bottle of Pepsi ten cents - take out twelve cents.

On August 27th, 1959 I married Donna Sauers from Viking. I continued to work in the garage and farm while Donna worked in Innisfree until about March, 1960. To this marriage we were blessed with three sons, Greg who works at various jobs; Glen working for Merland Explorations at Irma and Colin attending school. Glen married Cheryl Lawrence on February 28th, 1981. They now have a daughter named Carrie Lynn. Greg married



Cheryl, Glen, Buster, Carrie, Lil holding Dwayne, Jim, Donna, Colin and Greg in front.

Shirley Lawrence on October 24th, 1981.

In March, 1960 I took to driving school bus until the summer of 1961. The bus route I drove was south of Kinsella. The roads were very narrow and hilly. I can remember one time I got crossways on the road with the bus between two hills when it was icy and thank the Lord, nobody came over the hill while the bus was that way. The next two winters were spent working at a winter work project for the municipality. The first winter, 1962, the crew cut bush with the axe, because there were no chain saws, and burnt it along the roadsides in the area. The foreman was Albert Whitford. The second winter, 1963, I remember pouring cement under the pump house and the fire hall, for cisterns, in Kinsella and digging up the frozen ground with pick and shovel.

My hobby during the years "since I was knee-high to a grasshopper" was working and training horses which I still enjoy as a pastime.

In the spring of 1964 we rented, on a crop share basis, the Lingley farm north of Jarrow while still renting the Boyd farm. The crop that year was very poor on the Boyd farm. We cut it with the binder and hauled the bundles to Dad's farm. Dad and Mom Lingley moved to the Scotty Matthew place in Jarrow in the fall of 1964. Bill Lingley had bought the ninety-nine acres that the Matthews owned and Dad bought it from Bill and they still live there. My wife, the three boys (now aged Greg four years, Glen two years and Colin five months) and I moved to the Lingley homeplace in October of 1964 where I continued to farm. Being it was only a half section, we went into mixed farming.

We also rented the ninety-nine acres in Jarrow from my brother Bill, who is living at Fort Saskatchewan. We started farming on the Boyd farm with a little Oliver (two-plow) 60 tractor, a four and a half foot tiller, a couple of cows on share basis, two sows, some sheep and chickens, a very small house. Water had to be hauled to wash clothes and eventually water to drink for our use and the animals, but it makes us really appreciate what we have now. A very important thing that happened in

Donna's and my life took place on April 29th, 1976, but first I'd like to mention that for years I played in different orchestras for dances and other occasions and eventually Donna, my sons and I started to play together without finding a real satisfaction for our lives. Then in 1976, Donna and I gave our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ to use us as He wanted to and He changed our lives into something beautiful, so now we use our music to glorify the Lord. Years have come and gone very quickly and the Lord has blessed us and taken care of our needs. We don't know what the future really holds but we know God is in control.

K.B. LINGLEY

by K.B. (Buster) Lingley

I was born in St. John, New Brunswick in 1906. I was one of twin boys, my twin brother Clyde passed away at six months of age. I was christened Kenneth Beverly, however everybody knows me as "Buster".

My father was a carpenter and my mother looked after the family and did sewing. I was fourth in a family of seven, two girls and five boys, including Clyde. We lived in St. John until 1912 when we got some land from my Granddad Lingley, which was about twelve miles from St. John. My dad built a house for the family. I took my schooling at Nerpis school, and used to help my granddad and uncle who lived together and batched. I would help after school and on weekends. New Brunswick had a "Lingley" station and a "Lingley" graveyard as there were quite a few Lingley families. I grew up doing the usual things kids do.

My dad passed away when I was fourteen years old, so that left my older brother and I the head of the family to help our mother. We had to work out at different jobs, in the sawmills and the railroad etc.

In 1924 I came out west on a harvest excursion, and returned home that fall. I came west again the fall of 1925. The first year I harvested in Saskatchewan around Philmore and Osage, and the next year was in southern Alberta around Stavely. That fall I didn't go back east. I



Buster and Lil Lingley's 50th anniversary. Attendants - Ernie and Jean Rae.

went on to Vancouver, then back to Banff where I worked for four years with the game warden and for Brewsters. After this I went back to the B.C. coast and worked there for two years. While there I met up with Joe Nephew. He had been at Irma the year before to harvest. So we both decided to come that year to Jack Rae's for harvest. We stooked grain for different people and when the grain was ready to thresh, Jack had a tractor and separator and his boys Ernie and Wilmer ran the outfit.

When harvesting was over we decided to stay on, with Joe at the Ernie Rae farm and I worked for Harry Meakins. That's where I met my wife Lil, Harry's oldest daughter. We were married in 1933 and lived up in the hills on N.E. 2-46-10-W4th in a little two-roomed house. While there Jim was born in 1936. We lived there until the spring of 1940 when we moved to the Stan Lisson farm, S.E. 16-45-10-W4th which Melvin Erickson now owns. In 1940 Bill, our youngest was born. We farmed the Lisson place for two years, then moved to the Batt district on to the north half of 26-46-10-W4th now owned by Mrs. M. Burr. After this we bought the south half of 26-46-10-W4th and lived there until moving into Jarrow in 1964. At this time Jim and his wife, Donna bought the farm. They have raised three boys, Greg, Glen and Colin.

Our youngest son Bill and his wife, Barb, have an acreage about fourteen miles from Fort Saskatchewan and raise a few purebred Limousin cattle as a hobby. They have a family of four, William, Beverly, Beth and Jody. Bill works for Northwestern Utilities.

STANLEY LISSON FAMILY

by Harold Lisson

Robert Stanley Lisson, Stanley to his friends, was born in Hammond, New Brunswick, on June 30th, 1880. His father died when Stanley was six years old, so he was raised by near relatives. As a young man he went to Hartford, Connecticut, where he spent three years as an engineer with the Hartford Rubber Works Co., a tire manufacturer. In 1905 Stanley responded to the call of the West and came to Edmonton. For the next year he was employed by Ed Huff, driving a team of horses. During the winter the main job was to haul ice from the North Saskatchewan River for the local ice companies.

Stanley wished to farm so he and his mother, Mary Ann Lisson, rented a farm north of Hardisty, near the then Groveland school, in 1907. In the summer of 1909 Stanley applied for and was granted a homestead located five miles south of Jarrow, the S.E. 16-45-10-W4th. Jarrow didn't really exist at the time, as the railroad from the east terminated at Wainwright. It had yet to hurdle the mighty Battle River.

As was often the case, it was difficult to locate property lines, so the locally accepted method was used of tying a handkerchief to a wagon wheel and counting the number of revolutions from a known point.

The first order of business once on the homestead was to provide a place to live. A sod house served this purpose for a year or two. Stanley's mother came to the homestead and lived there until she died in 1917. The grave is in the Irma cemetery.

Mrs. Lisson, nee Jessie Groner, was born in Silver-

wood, Michigan on the 22nd of September, 1897, the ninth in a family of twelve. In 1905 two older brothers, Arthur and Stanton, had come to Loughheed where they rented a farm. The rest of the family arrived in 1906 and spent the winter with the earlier arrivals. Personal effects were brought by freight car to Sedgewick, the end of the line. Passenger service came only to Daysland so the final leg of the trip was made by wagon. In the spring of 1907 several homesteads were obtained in the Metropolitan district by the boys and by Jessie's father Amos Groner. A sizeable sod house was constructed on Amos' property and later a larger one of lumber. The children went to the Metropolitan school which was built in 1908. Amos Groner was one of the early trustees and it was noted that he supplied wood for the school at \$1.25 a cord. Prices have since gone up somewhat.



Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Lisson's wedding.

One is often asked of how you first met your wife or husband. Not always does this happen during a South Sea cruise or in some like romantic circumstance. How Jessie first met Stanley is worth relating. At the time, Jessie was working for the Tweedy family in the Melbrae district. Nelson Tweedy was a school teacher as well as a farmer, which necessitated his being away from home much of the time. The Tweedy family was not a small one and as refrigeration was still far in the future, meat had to be prepared almost daily. On this particular day, chicken was on the menu, but Jessie was frustrated as the girl who was to assist could not bring herself to helping dispatch the two chickens. The problem was solved when

Jessie noticed a team of horses pulling a rack with two strangers aboard coming down the road. She flagged them down and asked for help. Jessie held the unfortunate chickens while Stanley wielded the axe. Sometime after this romantic introduction Stanley and Jessie were married in Irma on the 5th of April, 1915.

By this time a frame house had been built on the homestead. The original house remains although there have been some additions and alterations. Neighbors nearby were the Ericksons and Larsons to the east, Lindquists to the north and Jim Morrison to the south. A son Harold was born in 1916, Raymond followed in 1917 and Charles in 1925.

The influenza epidemic that immediately followed World War I left its mark on the community. Among the deaths was Jessie's brother Harry Groner. Stanley also contracted the "flu" and was desperately ill for some time. His doctor advised that he should go to a warmer climate for the winter of 1919-20 if he was to have any chance of fully recovering his health. The advice was taken and the family was packed off to California where Stanley had a sister. The prescription proved effective. Tom Lockhart tended the farm during the family absence.

As was the case for most dedicated homesteaders, much hard work saw the farm operation thrive and grow. The home quarter was expanded until it consisted of six quarters. Farming was mixed, for as well as raising grain crops, a sizeable herd of cattle was ranged. The farm brand was LK or LK half diamond. The pride of the barn was Craigie Donald, a handsome Clydesdale stallion. He made the acquaintance of many brood mares for miles around.



Craigie Donald (the stallion) and Stanley Lisson.

Farming in the early days was never easy. Disaster always seemed to lurk just around the corner. The farm boasted a large hip-roof barn set on stone walls. In the summer of 1923 the loft was stuffed full of hay and oat bundles in readiness for the coming winter. Spontaneous combustion in the fresh hay started a fire which destroyed the barn, as well as several attached buildings. The only casualties were some chickens and a calf.

Stanley, along with a brother-in-law Bert Yakes, operated a threshing outfit for much of the 1920's and 30's. Fall months saw the rig move from neighbor to neighbor. The outfit was self contained, having its own cook car as well as a bunk car. Jessie ran the cook car for nine years, where actually tons of food was produced.

Hours were long, for the rig started up at six every morning and shut down at seven in the evening, with one hour at noon for lunch. Drivers of teams had to tend to their horses and eat before and after these hours. Eight teams and racks were needed as well as field and spike pitchers. A handyman (flunky) was needed to haul fuel, water, rations, wood for the stoves and other chores. Blistered hands were the order of the day for the first week.

The first rig was powered by a Rumley Oil-Pull, a massive monster of thumping iron and fuel fumes. In later years modernization brought a McCormack Deering tractor.

Some of the same threshing crew appeared annually. Names such as Hugh McGuire, Harry Symonds, Simon Newman, Maynard Kimball, Bill Newell, Buster Lingley and Emil Hustad seemed to check in each fall. At other times neighbors supplied a team and rack. Occasionally workers were picked from the farm excursion trains from Eastern Canada.

The dirty thirties were aptly named. Low farm prices and persistent drought were compounded by a total hail-out one year. In dry years it was necessary to try to salvage enough grain to provide seed for the following year. Often the wheat stalks were so short that when cut by the binder they would not fall onto the platform canvas. One of the boys would have to sit on the sideboard and sweep the stalks to the elevator canvas with a long stick. Of course the grain was too short to tie into bundles. At least one was able to save on the price of twine.

The boys attended public school at Coal Springs a mile and a half to the east. When it came time for high school, it was necessary to go to Jarrow five miles to the north where classes were held in a single room above Boyds' store. A remarkable teacher, Peter McNabb, taught all subjects in all grades.



Ray, Harold, Charles Lisson, 1926.

In summer the daily trip was made by bicycle. In winter horses were used although for one winter Harold, Raymond, Bob Routledge and his cousin Bill Routledge, batched in an abandoned house two miles south of Jarrow. The walls of the house were single boarded and the winter was frigid. Water in basins froze overnight. On

some nights snow would sift down through the hole in the roof where the tin chimney protruded. Before getting up you brushed the snow off the blankets. The week's milk and meat kept very well in the snowbank outside the door.

In spite of difficulties, happy times predominated. Sports days, whist and 500 social evenings, Christmas concerts and just good neighbor visiting made all worth while. Jessie and Stanley were active in community affairs. Farm organizations were numerous. Stanley served as councillor with the Municipal District of Kinsella for eighteen consecutive years. He rarely missed a meeting and during severe winters a round trip of thirty miles with team and sled tested ones hardiness. The family attended the United Church which held services in Jarrow and Melbrae. The boys were members of the Melgrove Valley Boy Scouts.

By 1938 Stanley's health began to fail and he found it difficult to continue full time farming. The farm was sold to the Likness brothers and a move was made to the Dick Ball property, just south of Jarrow. In 1941 Stanley and Jessie moved on to Edmonton, where Raymond was located at the time. After twelve years, the west coast beckoned and a final move was made to Chilliwack, B.C. where Stanley died in 1968 at the age of 88. Jessie still resides in Chilliwack, where she regularly greets friends visiting from the Irma district.

On completion of high school, Harold took his teacher training at Camrose Normal School. He then taught for four years at Melbrae and for a short while at Battle Heights north of Fabyan. In early 1940 he enlisted in the R.C.A.F. and trained as a pilot and flying instructor. One of his students during a stint of instructing at Macleod, Alberta, was Max Weber of Irma. Harold was posted to operational flying overseas in 1942 where he later commanded 418 City of Edmonton Mosquito Intruder Squadron. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for destruction of enemy aircraft, operations with the Dambusters and work with the French Underground. Harold continued in the R.C.A.F. after the war until retiring in 1966 to Victoria, B.C., where he again took up the teaching of science at a local high school. There was one more retirement in 1976 and a move to Salt Spring Island where he continues to live with his wife Helen. They have four children all living in the lower Vancouver Island area.

Raymond took a position at the Red Deer Training School in 1936. He was transferred to Oliver in 1939 so he moved with his family to live in Edmonton. In 1942 he accepted work with the Edmonton Transit System and remained with them until 1951, except for a two year period during the war, when he served in the R.C.A.F. as a medical assistant. From 1951 to 1954 he operated a garage on Alberta Avenue in Edmonton. He followed his parents to Chilliwack, B.C. where he purchased and operated a motel for several years. When the Trans Canada Highway bypassed Chilliwack, Raymond ran Dairy Queens there and in Mission. Later he accepted a position as Dairy Queen representative for Western Canada. Raymond is now retired in Chilliwack where he can be found with his wife Fannie, unless the fish are running. Then a motor home bearing the name Lisson

can be found on the bank of some lake or stream. Raymond and Fannie's three children live in the Vancouver area.

Charles joined the army in February, 1944 as soon as age would allow. He was posted overseas almost at once where he was wounded twice in action and invalided home in time for Christmas that same year. In the spring of 1945 he returned to work with the Edmonton Transit System where he remained until retirement in 1980. He now lives in Chilliwack, B.C. where he pursues his hobby of auto racing and rallying.



Jack, Hattie and Eugene Lloyd.

JOHN AND HATTIE LLOYD

by Hattie Lloyd

John Lloyd and Hattie Barnscher were married in Hardisty, September 19, 1936.

At the end of March, 1940, we moved everything on sleighs across country to Jarrow.

We moved several times and finally in 1944 or 1945, we moved into the McNall place six miles east of Kinsella and lived there until 1953, when we moved to Hardisty.

Those thirteen years were very hard for me. Everyone was a stranger to me and it was a hard struggle for me to get acquainted with people, but I gained some very good friends, some of which I still go to visit.

My three children were born in the Viking Hospital: Eugene in 1943, Marian in 1948 and Brian in 1950. I had to depend on the kindness of the neighbors to help me through these trying times.

Jack Lloyd did a little farming for himself, but spent a good part of the time working for some of the neighbors, mostly Mr. JoMac Holt.

I am sorry to say that my life in the Batt district was not too enjoyable.

LOCKE, ARTHUR

The Arthur Locke family moved from Summerside, Prince Edward Island to Calgary, then came to Irma in the summer of 1927. They lived with their oldest daughter, Mrs. Elford until the spring of 1928 when they bought the Joe Hardy house.



Arthur Locke's foxes in the 1930's.

Mr. Locke was a rancher mostly. At first he raised silver black foxes, later platinum, then mink and chinchilla rabbits.

Both Arthur and Amy Locke were very active in the United Church. Mrs. Locke was particularly active in the C.G.I.T. and Women's Missionary Society. She died January 30, 1942. Mr. Locke stayed on in his home until the summer of 1951 when he sold his home to James Craig Sr. and went to live with the Elfords who had by this time moved to Edmonton.

Oldest of the Locke family was Ruby who married Edward Elford. They came to Irma in September, 1922.



The Locke family on July 1, 1940. Back Row: Arthur Locke, Ray Locke. Front: Ruby, Doris, Amy, Marjorie.

Second oldest was Doris, married to Ernie Simmons. She died in the summer of 1943. They had one son, Jack, now farming in the Kinsella area. The third oldest, Marjorie, married Bruce Hadlow and moved to Edmonton in the early thirties. Bruce has passed away as has their only daughter, Marilyn. Their son, Robert (Bob) lives in Calgary. The youngest, Ray, was a navigator in the Air Force of World War II and died June 1944. He was married to Betty McLean. They had one daughter, Betty Rae.

Mr. Locke was very active until shortly before he died in October, 1960.

CECIL LOCKHART FAMILY

by Marilyn Lockhart

Clarence Cecil was born on his folks' farm north of Jarrow on January 16th, 1930, weighing two and one-half pounds at birth.

Cecil took his schooling at Batt and eventually took over the home farm when his parents retired into Irma. On November 15th, 1958, Cecil married Marilyn Hill who had been born October 31st, 1933 on her folks' farm south-east of Irma.

Marilyn took her elementary schooling at Strawberry Plains and then took grades ten and eleven at Irma. For a time she stayed at home to help her mother, later working in Lang's Drug Store. Marilyn decided she'd like to try city life so obtained a position with Ross McBain in Edmonton. Deciding she needed a change Marilyn worked in United Cigar Stores for four years before returning to Irma to get married.

Cecil and Marilyn settled on the farm where they raised four children. Darlene was born March 26th, 1961 and took all her schooling in Irma, graduating in 1979. She worked for Northwestern Utilities in Edmonton, then moved to Surrey, B.C. where she married Joe Almeida. In the fall of 1982 they moved back to Alberta and make their home in Edmonton.



Cecil and Marilyn Lockhart.



Grandma Lockhart with Darlene, Brenda and Sharon.

Sharon was born April 5th, 1962 and attended Irma School, graduating in 1980. Sharon worked for Energy Natural Resources in Edmonton and Thorp's Drug Store in Wainwright. She married Leon Korth of Hardisty and they live near Hardisty.

Karen was born March 29th, 1965. As a result of high fever from red measles she was left retarded and is at present in Eric Kormach Centre in Edmonton.

To complete the family, Brenda was born August 4th, 1969 and attends school in Irma.

Marilyn and Cecil lived in the former Lockhart house until 1971 when they moved a bungalow in from Derwent. They built a machine shed in 1978 changing the homestead considerably from early times. Cecil raises cattle and finishes them in a feedlot.

Cecil belongs to the Kinsella Elks while Marilyn belongs to the Kinsella Royal Purple.

Cecil and Marilyn are excellent neighbors, always ready to give a helping hand when it is needed.

JIM LOCKHART

by Murle Lockhart

Jim Lockhart was one of my father's younger brothers who came west in the early twenties. My earliest recollection of Uncle Jim was when he and my father came home from the bush west of Edmonton, and Uncle Jim brought a box type gramophone that sat on the table. He only had two cylinder type records. One was "Uncle Josh and the Haystack", and how we kids loved it. We



Jimmy Lockhart in front of house on the N.W. 12-47-10.

played those two records till they were completely worn out.

Uncle Jim stayed with us different winters, but finally farmed the McNall place, N.W. 12-47-10-W4th now owned by Cecil Lockhart. He took care of his mother who kept house for him. He was very good to her but played many tricks on her. We girls delighted to go have tea with Grandma and Uncle Jimmy, as we seldom got tea at home and Grandma would even use her good cups for us.

I do not know how long Uncle Jim lived on the farm, but he left there and went to the States, where he married and had two children. His daughter, Betty and her husband, came to the family reunion in 1982. How we did enjoy her and her husband!

Jim passed away several years ago. I found a letter from Uncle Jim written in 1952 to my parents and there was a three cent stamp on it. What a contrast to the price of stamps today!

TOMMY LOCKHART

by Murle Larson

My first memory of Tommy Lockhart was living in Jarow with his mother, after Uncle Jim had gone to the States. They lived in a little white house just north of the livery barn, which Uncle Tommy had rented from Bill Jamison. Grandma Lockhart passed away while still living with Tommy in Jarow.

Tommy owned a model T. car and the rear end went out and Tommy decided to fix it himself. While putting in the crown gear and pinion, he turned the crown gear



Tommy Lockhart

over and the pinion was on the wrong side. The result was when he wanted to go forward, he backed up, and when he wanted to back up, he went forward. Tommy was not one to be beaten easily and claimed he had turned the car around, thus the mistake.

In about the forties he purchased land in the Batt district, N.W. 10-47-10-W4th now owned by Alf Oracheski. He farmed there a few years (baching) and he was a very particular bachelor.

He corresponded with Katherine Spiscer for a while,

then they got married. Aunt Katherine had been married before and had two children, Dorothy and Willis, both who attended Batt school. Aunt Katherine was a wonderful cook, gardener, or whatever she turned her hand to do. After a few months her mother, Mrs. Walsh, came to live with them. They farmed for a few years, then had a sale and went to live in Niagara Falls. A few years later Tommy died of a heart attack. Aunt Katherine died of cancer.

We, as kids, often walked over to Uncle Tommy's to visit and he always had a treat for us. Aunt Katherine was always very good to us, but things weren't the same. Guess we kids were a bit jealous, as now he had other interests.

Willis married, lived in Niagara Falls, but since has passed away, and Dorothy married and lived in Winnipeg.

LOCKHART FAMILY

by Murle (Baker) Larson

William Robert Lockhart came to Alberta from Lucknow, Ontario in 1912 and took up a homestead, S.E. 14-47-10-W4th, in the Batt district. His youngest son Cecil and family still live on the home place. My grandmother kept house for my father until mother and father were married on August 30th, 1920. As well as a wife, my father acquired four children: Orville, Earl, myself Murle and Goldie. We all attended Batt school.



Mr. and Mrs. Lockhart's wedding, August 30th, 1920.

Their first daughter Margaret arrived September 28th, 1921. Margaret was never a strong child, after finishing school at Batt she rode horseback to Echo for her grade nine and then on to Irma for the rest of her education. She was united in marriage to Leslie Elliott on January

7th, 1940. Three children were born to this union, Leona, Carol and Lorne all living near Abbotsford, B.C. where Les and Margaret reside. They have four grandchildren.

Floyd arrived February 19th, 1923. As a teenager he loved playing ball and was fond of horses. Many were the plans he and Victor Carter made about farming together, but these faded as the boys grew older. As a young man Floyd spent time in the Canadian Army and went overseas during World War II. He now lives in Vancouver in the winter and Edmonton in the summer, he keeps busy with real estate and race horses. Hazel was born January 24th, 1925. After public school she went to Edmonton and took nurses' training at Alberta Hospital. She was one of the first psychiatric nurses to graduate from the school in June of 1948. She still works at Alberta Hospital. Hazel married Jim McLaren in July of 1950. They had two children Janice and Douglas, both of Edmonton. Jim suffered from rheumatic fever when in the army and it left him with a weak heart. He passed away in July of 1966.

spared them both. Cecil married Marilyn Hill on November 15th, 1958 and they live on the home place. They have four daughters, Darlene married and living in Edmonton, Sharon also married and living at Hardisty, Karen in Edmonton and Brenda at home.

Dad was very good to his stepchildren. We were taught to respect and obey our parents. There was never any difference between the children. There were hard times but lots of fun times among ourselves.

Saturday night was bath night. The cook stove was stoked up to heat water in the reservoir on the side of the stove and in the tea kettle. The wash tub was brought in and towels and blankets draped on chairs in front of the oven door and that is where the family bath took place, from youngest to oldest, just hot water added as the need arose. In summer the water was saved to put on the rhubarb and in winter used to water the pigs. We had to carry our water to the house by pail. The dish water was always kept for the pigs, as father always said the homemade soap used kept the pigs free of worms. I guess



Family reunion, 1982. Back Row: Margaret, Floyd, Hazel, Daisy, Mabel and Cecil. Front Row: Orville, Goldie, Mother, Murle and Earl.

Daisy was born April 28th, 1926, she too attended Batt school. She served in the R.C.A.F. during the war years. In November of 1942 she married Gordon Elliott of Irma. They farmed east of Irma for a time before moving to Bashaw where they owned and managed a restaurant for many years. Five girls were born to this family: Judy, Lorna, Marilyn, Linda and Sandra, all now married and living in or near Bashaw. Daisy has ten grandchildren, she has been head cook at the Bashaw Senior Citizens Lodge for the past fifteen years. Gordon passed away in July of 1974.

Mable was born April 27th, 1928. After schooling she stayed home with her parents for a number of years. She worked in the Viking hospital for seven years, then later at the Vermilion hospital where she met and married Gordon Patterson on August 22nd, 1969. They are farming north of Mannville. A few years ago a little boy, Ziggy, a four year old came to bless their home.

Cecil, the youngest child only weighed two and one-half pounds at birth. He was born at home. A neighbor's wife, Mrs. Earl Moore came to look after Mother. It was feared neither she nor the baby would survive, but God

maybe this was true as we never had trouble with worms as the farmers have done in later years. All the wash water was melted snow and we generally started to haul snow in, the first of the week. Saturday was usually wash day on the washboard. We didn't have the closets full of clothes the kids have now. We had one change and we always had to change clothes as soon as we came from school.

We milked a lot of cows, from fifteen to twenty. My chore after school for many years was to go for the cows. There was open range to the east and north of us. Sometimes you could ride for hours before you would find them. Then to milk, separate, feed calves, then your supper and do your homework. The same thing in the morning, though the cows were kept in a pasture at night. One of us girls had to wash the dishes and the other the cream separator before going to school, besides helping with the other chores, then a two and a half mile walk to school. We were tired before we got to school.

Mother was a very good milker and could milk two cows to the average milker's one, so naturally the good milker was left to do most of the milking. The cream

cheques bought all the groceries in those days.

We all attended Batt school which also served as Sunday School and church. The school was heated by a pot bellied stove at the back of the room and the pipes ran the length of the room to the west side to the chimney. Grades from one to nine were taught with some of the students going to high school in Jarrow. As high as thirty students attended at one time. The teacher always boarded with a family in the district. We always liked our teachers and we looked up to our teachers as much as our parents. We had good discipline and our books were always corrected. We didn't have the piles of homework that the children have nowadays. Reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic were really stressed. The teacher always opened the day with the Lord's Prayer. Many times the school was very cold and the teacher would have us run around our desks two or three times to get warm, or else take our books and sit around the stove.

The highlight of the year was the Christmas concert. The teachers would start about the middle of November to practice recitations, plays, monologues, songs and drills and were we ever drilled! Generally a two hour program, which pretty well went off without too many mistakes due to the many hours of practice the teacher put us through. There was very little prompting from behind the curtains as we had to memorize all our parts. Everyone had parts and how we loved it! All the girls got new dresses and the boys were really dressed up too. There was a gift for each child from the teacher and a gift from the parents, or the district put on something to raise money for gifts. Always there was a bag of candy for each child in the district. How excited we were the night of the program! A family had to go early in order to get their team in the barn, and the school was always packed to capacity.

Some of the teachers I remember were Verna Webb, Miss Good, Darrel Peterson, Mrs. Theroux who taught me in grade five. Miss Robinson, Miss Bowen, Miss Kennedy who taught there seven years, Miss Ross, Miss Johnson (Mark) and there have been others.

Our first Sunday School superintendent that I can remember was Mr. David Whidden, then I believe Earl Moore and Mrs. Theroux. We had church services every second Sunday, the minister driving out from Jarrow.

I believe to this day that the school, Sunday School and church has left it's mark on all the pupils that attended there. To my knowledge they have all done well in life, each taking his or her place in society as good citizens. It was a sad day when our old school burned down. My sister Hazel was the janitor at the time and Miss Johnson the teacher. For a while they held school in the Carl Ahlf home till the new school was built. The country schools were eventually closed and the children were bussed to Irma. At berry-picking time the whole family was included; we took a picnic lunch and we really enjoyed that. Mother would can up to three hundred quarts of fruit, mostly saskatoons, if the year was good. In the winter I can remember my Dad buying dried prunes, apricots and apples by the case. I believe we got them wholesale from Saskatoon. Mother would soak them overnight in water and very little sugar and then cook them just a little. My they were good with thick cream!

Potato picking time was another time when the whole family joined in. Dad would plow the potatoes out, and we kids would pick them up. Being the oldest girl I was sometimes allowed to stay home and cook the meals. Mother did quarts and quarts of canning, and the huge gardens we had! We always had lots to eat, not much variety at times, but good wholesome food. Fresh milk and cream from the cow, not pasturized, and we were all healthy. The can of cream was hung down the well to keep it sweet, and many times the rope would slip and down would go the can, not into the water but around the curbing. Seldom did the cream spill as the cans had very tight lids. In the early days we drove to Jarrow with team and buggy to put the cream on the train for Viking, and



Fall 1934, Murle helping out in the field.

in later years to the creamery in Kinsella, a ten to twelve mile drive.

Father butchered our meat. Mother canned the beef and home cured the pork with smoked salt. Mother would par boil the bacon to take some of the salt out so you could eat it, but it never spoilt. There were no freezers or having it cut and wrapped in those days.

There were so many funny things happened too. I remember mother had bought a box of pears and put them in the cellar to ripen. We called it a cellar as it was a hole a little smaller than the house. It was so cool in the summer time and seldom froze in the winter. We could go down the cellar from the outside and of course we children helped ourselves to the pears. We took them behind the house to eat in privacy. I was mad at my sister Goldie as she was in the outhouse eating a pear and Mother found out. She was quite provoked and said "I better get them canned" but when she went to get them there was only one left. Needless to say we got scolded for that. For a large family we were pretty lucky as to sickness. No broken bones and the only serious sickness outside of chicken pox and measles and such was that Earl had rheumatic fever. I believe today his heart trouble is due to that.

Earl, Orville and I were going to Sunday School with the horse and buggy. Orville had walked ahead to open the gate, and somehow the horse got frightened and started to run, hitting the fence on the south side of the road and ran along the fence. Earl had one bad cut from the knee to the ankle on the inside of his leg, and one wrist badly cut. I had four gashes in my left arm and the right one dislocated. The only thing that stopped the buckskin horse was that the buggy became entangled in

the wire fence. Dad took us to the house, washed our wounds, filled the cuts with pine tar, bandaged us and we healed quite nicely. We both have scars but it was a long way to Viking to the nearest doctor and now we had no buggy and no car to go with.

Another time when Mable was three or four she put a stone in her nose. Mother and Dad tried everything to get her to sneeze, and everything else they could think of to get it out, but to no avail. Dad got the horse and was ready to take her to Viking when she gave a little sneeze and out popped the stone. The rest of us were looking at it and Mable said "I only did this" and the stone was back in her nose. Over Mother's knee she went and out popped the stone. The trip to Viking was a day's drive so we only went when absolutely necessary.

In the winter Mother and Dad always sat up and kept the fires going until around midnight, so the house wouldn't get too cold by morning. We burned mostly green wood with a little dry to get the fire going. We didn't have a brick chimney, just the stove pipe through the roof and a roof jack which left a space between them. I was the last of the kids to go to bed and I yelled down to my dad to go look up at the stove pipe. Dad ran out and came back very quickly to get the water pail as a nice little fire had started around the roof jack. Luckily there was no wind or the house would have burned. I do not know to this day why I told my dad to go look, if I saw a shadow in the snow, or if the Lord was watching over us.

Many times the water pail was frozen in the mornings and even the tea kettle on the stove had ice in it. The bed covers would freeze to the wall and there would be a row of frost across the top of the blankets from our breath. I think Mother and Father feared fire more than anything else, as burning green wood coated the pipes so badly and when that caught fire how it roared. We were so lucky not to have had a bad fire.



*Grade nine in June, 1933
- Borghild Bruhaug, Asta
Lindberg, Murle Baker.*

We had a neighbor living a mile north of us, the Leasons. They had two daughters, one girl Lorna about my age. I just loved that girl. They didn't stay too long, and how I missed her! Mr. and Mrs. Sy Kennedy lived a half mile west of us but they were an older couple and we kids were always a little afraid of them.

My Mother had a sister who lived in Winnipeg and only had two children. She sent boxes and boxes of clothing to our family. At Christmas she sent at least two gifts for each of us and something for Mother and Dad too.

I often think of how hard our parents worked in the thirties. The crops were so poor. The cream cheques, the pigs and the chickens kept the wolf from the door. I often think of the ice-cream Mother made in the ice-cream freezer as we had plenty of milk and cream and the ice in our ice well would last all summer.

The hundreds of loaves of bread that Mother baked, the butter she churned, canning, gardening, washing and cooking, all was hand labor. Of course we all had to help, and I don't believe we complained as much as we do today with all our modern conveniences. Where there is a large family children learned very young to share and the older ones to care for the younger ones. Of all the family, Orville, Hazel and Daisy were the only ones born in a hospital.

Mother and Father retired in Irma in 1958. They enjoyed their retirement until father passed away in 1964. Mother lived on in her own home until 1977, when housekeeping got too much for her and she moved to the Battle River Lodge in Wainwright.

In August of 1982 we had a family reunion and for the first time in at least forty years all our immediate family were together. There was Mother, her ten children, eighteen grandchildren (only six grandchildren were missing), twenty-six great grandchildren. There were many other relatives, well over one hundred, and what a delightful time we had. Some relatives came from Ontario, New York and the west coast.

THE ART LONGS

Art, as he was always known, was born on August 10th, 1888 in Harvey, Twp., Peterborough County, Ontario, the youngest son of Charlie and Lydia Long. While still a child, the family moved to a homestead in the Cooking Lake district of Alberta. As a young man Art "teamed" for some years in the growing city of Edmonton, and then took out a homestead, south of Irma in what became known as the Strawberry Plains district. On November 18th, 1918, Art was married to Bessie Tillapaugh.

Bessie Tillapaugh was born at Burr Oak, Iowa, on September 15th, 1888. She came with her family to Alberta, at an early age, and settled near Vegreville. Bessie told her family of walking to Vegreville one day along the railroad track, to buy shoes. When a train came along, the engineer stopped and gave her a ride into town!

Bessie graduated from the Lamont Nursing School in 1916. After nursing in various hospitals, she was "nurse in charge" at Irma during the Flu Epidemic, 1918, for five weeks.

The following is taken from the December 6th, 1918, Irma Times: "Perhaps there is no better time than this to pay tribute to Nurse Tillapaugh.

A graduate of the Hospital at Lamont, under the superintendency of Miss Sarah C. Slaughter, perhaps one of the most remarkable women, engaged on hospital work in the west, Nurse Tillapaugh went through a training and a discipline that few nurses receive. This district has cause to be most thankful that a nurse with

her splendid skill and efficiency, and her soldierly sense of duty, was available on the recent epidemic. Those who were privileged to assist on the work could tell of more than one instance of her high courage when she was already near the breaking point from overwork and worry. Much more might be said, but it will suffice to remind us that it takes a good many years of kindly expressions of esteem, of friendly wishes and neighbourly deeds to repay such community debts."

On a lighter note, one of her male "flu" patients who was very close to dying, promised Nurse Tillapaugh all his earthly belongings if she would save him. He did recover, but needless to say his memory was short lived.

After Bessie and Art's marriage they lived in the Strawberry Plains district. (One homesteader remembers when a field was being broken up, that the smell of wild strawberries could be noticed half a mile away.)

Bessie continued making good use of her nursing abilities in helping neighbors, delivering babies, nursing pneumonia cases, etc., always willing to give a helping hand.



Art Long and stallion Blenheim - 1938.

Art was a devoted horseman. He raised many fine Percherons, both registered and grade. Over the years he owned several good stallions which were "travelled" in the district. It was real entertainment to get him and Mrs. Saville, arguing as to which was the best breed, Percherons or Belgians!

Art remembered the days of the Open Range as the happiest time of his life, when he used to "rest" after a hard day's field work, riding through the coulee and river valley. One of the unhappiest was the time Fentons' Shorthorn bull kept him up a tree all afternoon in the rain.

Art was also interested in good cattle and developed one of the best herds of Commercial Herefords in the district.

In 1940 Art and his son Harry bought their first registered Hereford females and acquired a herd sire from their neighbor, Art Blakely.

To Bessie and Art was born one son, Harry and two daughters, Nora and Marian.

Harry remained in the Strawberry Plains district, working with his dad, and buying the Orval Chase farm. In 1946 he was married to Bernice Quance, who had just received her discharge from the Womens' Division of the Air Force. They made their home on the former Chase

farm and worked with Harry's dad to build up their herd of Herefords.

To Bernie and Harry were born three sons: Barry, Randy and Bryce, and one daughter Diana. They all received their education at Irma school. Barry went on to obtain his Commerce degree at the University of Alberta. He was married to Debra Watt on December 28th, 1971. Their untimely deaths occurred in a car accident on July 1st, 1974.



Art and Bessie Long - 1922; son Harry in background, Dan the horse.

Randy spent some time as a ferrier at Vulcan and Calgary after completing his grade 12 at Irma. Following this he worked his way up to "Partsman" in the C.C.I.L. in Vulcan and Calgary. Needed at home, he returned and was united in marriage to Margo Barabash, on January 8th, 1977. To this marriage has been born, two girls, "Nicole Therese" on October 22nd, 1978, and "Darcie Rence" on March 29th, 1981.

With both Randy and Bryce at home they decided to have their cattle sales at home. So the Longs' Hereford Ranch Sale has become an annual February event.

Bryce finished his high school, deciding, finally, he wasn't interested in University. He remained at home. He carried on his interest in curling and in this way met his wife. Linda Ogilvie and Bryce were married on June 10th, 1978. They are both involved in curling in Wainwright.

Diana, too, took her schooling in Irma. On graduation, she enrolled in "Recreation Administration" at the University of Alberta. After two years Diana decided not to continue at University. She worked at the White Cross in Wainwright for a year and then went to work for Jim Freeman at the Daine's Western Store in Hanna. From there Jim transferred her to his Daines' Store in Olds where she worked for two years. At present she is helping at home. Diana's happiest moments are spent preparing cattle for shows and sales.

Nora, the elder daughter took her schooling at Irma. She was married to Frank Voros of Hardisty until his death in a rodeo accident in 1946.

At present she lives with her husband, Jack Schmidt on a farm at Taber. They raise registered Herefords.

Nora had three children: Earl, Brent, and Tammy.

They were born in Taber and took their schooling there. At present Earl lives in Calgary and is a Fishing Supervisor for Homco International.

Brent is married. He and Susan have two small sons, Bo and Joshua. They make their home at Grassy Lake. He is employed by Legacy Consultants, Calgary as a "pipe line inspector". Brent has been rodeoing for some years now and was Bareback Champion of Southern Alberta in 1975 and 1976.

Tammy is the youngest as well as being the only girl. She is employed at present as Construction Coordinator, putting in a new Pipeline for Co-op 52 at Provost, Alberta.

Marian, Bessie and Art's younger daughter, married Mark Allred. Their three sons were born in Wainwright. They grew up on the family farm and finished high school in Irma.

Shane went on to N.A.I.T. and later to Houston, Texas. He was Field Supervisor for a number of years for Dresser Atlas, at Fort St. John and is now District Operator's Manager for the same Company, in Edmonton.

Chad went to work for Northwestern Utilities, on finishing school. In 1981 he was employed by Petro Canada and is a Maintenance Man for that Company, working north of Irma.

Blaine graduated from Irma High School in 1981 and is apprenticing as a Mechanic at Smiths' Garage in Lougheed.

Like the rest of the family Marian and boys keep a few registered Hereford cattle.

Art and Bessie celebrated their 50th Anniversary on August 25th, 1968. The actual date was November 18th, but they wanted to have their older friends in attendance while the weather was nice. This proved to have been providential, as shortly after, it was discovered that Art had leukemia. He passed away on December 21st, 1968.

Bessie continued to make her home with her daughter Marian and boys. On December 22nd, 1975, she suffered a stroke and passed away a month later, January 21st, 1976, putting up a good fight to live right to the end.



The Harry Long Family: Randy, Margo holding Darcie, Harry, Bernie, Bryce and Linda. In front is Diana holding Nicole.

MR. AND MRS. BERT LONG

Bert Long was born in 1878 in Harvey Township, Peterborough, Ontario, the son of Charlie and Lydia Long. While still a child the family moved to the Cooking Lake district of Alberta.

Bert and his younger brother, Art, took out homesteads in the Irma area in 1907 and 1909; Bert's north of town. For some years he resided there, and after the death of his father, his mother lived with him.

On October 16th, 1926 he was united in marriage to May Routledge. They had met at the home of Bert's sister Florence of Red Deer.



Bert Long and grand-daughter Ollie.

Bert's mother moved to Ontario to stay with her daughter, Mary, where she resided until her passing. May and Bert moved to Irma from the farm and lived in the "big white house". For some years they took roomers and May taught music (piano and later the guitar and accordion) for nearly forty years.

For many years Bert drove out each Sunday with a bag full of chocolate bars for Harry's children. He had the best car in the country; took off in second gear wherever he went. When Bert had his stroke Milt Fahner purchased the car.



Mrs. Lydia Long, Art and Bert's mother.

In 1965 Bert suffered a stroke from which he never really completely recovered. From the hospital he went to the Auxiliary Hospital where he resided until his passing on April 10th, 1971.

May and Bert celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary on October 16th, 1966. Bert's nephew, Harry, brought him from the Auxiliary Hospital to spend that day at his home.

May continued to reside in Irma until she had the misfortune of breaking a hip. After a stay in the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton and the Wainwright Hospital, she moved into the Battle River Lodge.

She continued to play the piano and organ whenever needed. In Irma she had played for services in both the Irma United Church and the Irma Catholic Church for a good many years.

On April 8th, 1982, May was moved to the Wainwright Auxiliary Hospital where she still resides. She celebrated her ninety-second birthday in February of 1983.



Mrs. May Long

REVEREND AND MRS. EDWARD LONGMIRE AND FAMILY

Reverend and Mrs. Longmire served in the ministry in the Irma United Church from 1937 to 1945.

Edward Longmire was born in England in 1887. As a young man, he was very interested in church work, acting as a lay-preacher. At the age of twenty, he immigrated to Canada to study for the Methodist ministry.

He received his education at the University of Alberta and was ordained in 1916. Prior to ordination, he served as a student preacher, travelling miles on horseback, to visit pioneers in the Stettler, Coronation and Handhills areas.

Francis Mason Longmire was born in 1887, in Ontario, and came to Red Deer, as a young girl. Her parents homesteaded in the Handhills area.

Life in Irma was a busy, but happy time for the Longmires. They made many lifelong friends while living there.

As well as holding a weekly service in Irma, Reverend Longmire held services in four rural schools, namely Albert, Alma Mater, Roseberry and Passchendale.



Mr. and Mrs. E. Longmire, Lois and Marion.

During the war years Mr. Longmire - being an avid curler - was actively involved in the planning and building of the first Irma Curling Rink.

Also during the war Mr. and Mrs. Longmire and Marion were active in the Red Cross, in helping to send bales of quilts and clothing overseas.

Mrs. Longmire devoted her life to the church and her family. She was a lifetime member of the Women's Missionary Society, and the Ladies' Aid, as well as a Choir Member and Mission Band Leader.

Mr. and Mrs. Longmire were both very interested in the production of amateur plays and pantomimes.

Many young people will remember the girls' and boys' camps, at Camp Lake, near Viking. Young people came from all over the Wainwright Presbytery to attend these camps. Mrs. Longmire was Camp Mother and Cook; Mr. Longmire Camp Organizer and Marion Camp Director.

Marion and Lois were involved in C.G.I.T., Church Choir and the Young Peoples' Group.

Marion lead the church choir for seven years, and taught the primary room in Irma School for four years, after attending Normal School in Edmonton. She graduated from the Lamont School of Nursing in 1949 and worked for twenty-two years in the field of mental retardation. She is now enjoying retirement in Red Deer, Alberta. Marion has one daughter and two grandsons.

Lois attended school in Irma for five years, and graduated from the University of Alberta in 1945 with her Bachelor of Education. She taught Home Economics for seven and one-half years in Westaskiwin and Red Deer. Lois and Stanley Churchill were married in 1950 and lived in Red Deer for sixteen years. They moved to Edmonton in 1966, where Stan instructs at N.A.I.T. They have two daughter, one son, and six grandchildren.

The Longmires left Irma in 1945, and served the last eleven years of their ministry at Provost, and in British Columbia.

They spent their retirement years in Red Deer, Alberta, and Hatzic, British Columbia, enjoying their family, friends, gardening and travelling.

Mrs. Longmire passed away at the age of eighty-one and Mr. Longmire at ninety-five. Their eight years in Irma and district were some of the happiest years of their ministry.

THE LORING STORY

by Paul Loring

The Benjamin Loring family came to Jarrow, Alberta in March of 1911. My dad came out to Alberta the spring of 1910 to size things up, and eventually bought one quarter section of land in what was known as Batts Valley. He then returned to Concord Junction, Massachusetts, in August 1910 where he and Mabel, his wife, and family of five children were living. I, Paul, being the oldest, then Amelia next to me in age, then Esther, Lindsay and Doris, the youngest.

We spent the following year preparing to ship out a car load of settlers' effects. The family were rather in limbo, sometimes living with relatives until the time for us all to leave. A sad occasion that was, and it had a lasting effect on all of us. The hardships we would go through we had no idea. We were entirely unsuited for pioneer life which we were going to face. My mother was a talented musician and highly educated. We arrived in Irma in the spring of 1911 without any baggage or food on account of a misadventure getting our baggage on the train we came on.

We stayed at the Henderson Hotel and made do. The Hendersons were wonderful people and accommodated us in every way possible for about a month, I think. It was about two weeks before we got our baggage from Winnipeg after a search by the Winnipeg police. On top of that, our freight hadn't arrived, having been held up at the line because it was overweight. Dad finally got a bill on that account before the car could come out west to Jarrow. The cost was considerable and broke Dad right then. It was many days before the car finally arrived at Jarrow. Dad, in the meantime, was scouting around the country on foot, trying to locate some kind of animals, either horses or oxen, to haul the stuff out to the one room shack - the place we were to call home for the next five years.

His difficulty in getting what he needed was that he was practically broke and couldn't pay a reasonable amount. He was finally given a very old team of oxen. One was a bull with its ears and tail frozen off and both were very thin as the only feed they had was the grass they could rustle by following the range horses that uncovered the grass.



Loring family. Paul Loring, Amelia, Miss Rutherford, Mother and Dad, Esther, Lindsay and Doris.

Dad had bought a wagon and sleigh in Edmonton the year before, when he was thinking of going to the Peace River country. That is a story by itself. Anyway he never went, but shipped some of the stuff down to Jarrow, and it was still there the next year so he had a wagon to put the oxen to. He had lumber and harness in the car. Mind you, it was not ox harness, but was for light horse work. He had lots more in the car than he should have - buggies, democrats, furniture and no place but out in the weather to put it!

Our house was small 14 feet by 20 feet, I'd say. There was room for only essentials and the piano my mother cherished. We finally got out to the homestead. By the way, this place was homesteaded by Fredrick Hubbard, who afterwards became quite famous in Edmonton for his chocolates.

Mr. Kebler, a land agent in Edmonton, handled the deal. Mr. George Batt was our closest neighbor to the west. I remember the day they all came out from Irma. Carl Ahlf, who was single then, was living in the Henderson Hotel for the winter and brought them out in a democrat. It was a cold, windy day and they were about frozen. My dad and I had walked down the tracks to Jarrow a few days before and had been there to help them move. I was twelve years old that spring and not very big, but was expected to do a lot of work. There was a new school in our district which went by the name of Batts. Up until the time we came, there had been school about six months of the year - May to October. That didn't go down too well with Dad so he eventually did something about it. It caused a lot of trouble, a regular feud, I'll tell about later. Going back to life after we got settled - Dad got busy with some of the lumber he brought out and built an addition onto our one-room shack as he intended to board the school teacher, who was soon to arrive for the summer teaching. She was Miss Taite and a very delightful person she was - musical and happy. Mother used to say that she made mother's life bearable the first year.

Besides being crowded, we didn't have good water at first so it had to be carried from Mr. Batt's well, and it was hard water at that. Mother did the washing by hand so hard water made her job harder.

We kids were quite happy now the weather was warmer. Crocuses were everywhere, also gophers. Dad finally put in fifteen acres of crop with his team of oxen. Breaking land with a walking plow was very slow and he had to broadcast the oats around the first of July. It made only green feed but he had a whale of a crop of that which lasted him several years.

I remember the kids we went to school with. Most have passed on and some I've lost track of. There were Ezra, Lydia and Pearl Dennison, who lived a half mile north and half mile west of the school. There were twins Ruth and Ruby Whidden. I was in love with Ruby once, but I don't think she knew it! Others were Stan and Dorothy Lennox and Marion Haynes (a boy). A year or two later the school population increased when the Bridgeman family with George, Stan and Gladys attended. Lester Brown was a special friend of mine when we went to school, but Lester died quite young. The Bridgemans and Browns lived almost out of the district up north near the

moonshiners of the day.

In those days there was a lot of open land, C.P.R., Hudson's Bay and school sections. During those years stock roamed at will and it was always the chore of us young fellows to get the cows in to milk and the horses in to work. Sometimes we went on foot, but mostly we had an old cow pony that Dad bought from Mr. Morgan, a cowboy, who lived over east of us north of Irma. That was a good cow pony - I could cut out anything I needed to.

We got a taste of what some of the people who lived over east some miles were like. They were probably just a little different. That first fall some people came into our place without permission and started stripping an old threshing machine, that was left on the place. When Dad saw them he told them to stop and get going. If they weren't on their way by the time he got to the house, he'd start shooting. I suppose they thought he was bluffing and they hadn't gone when Dad came out. Dad started shooting with a heavy rifle. It must have scared them as they got in their rig and went tearing out east through the fence. Dad went to town and phoned the police and had them arrested and fined. We had no more trouble with them.

In the fall of 1911 a meeting was held to elect a school board as until then the school had been run by the Provincial Department of Education. Dad was elected as trustee. His main reason for that was to see if he could collect enough taxes to keep the school open for nine months. That meant stepping on some toes. He concentrated on one of the big land owners who hadn't been paying taxes. Of course the ones friendly to him felt sorry for him and resented my dad's actions, but we got nine months of school from then on.



Paul Loring in 1918.

I will mention some other people in the district. They were Jim, Bill and Tommy Lockhart, Mr. and Mrs. George Theroux, Mr. and Mrs. Sy. Kennedy. There were Whiddens, Lennox, Haynes, and later Carl Ahlf who married Tina Whidden.

The Anderson family came out around 1911 and rented Batt's place. They had four girls and one boy, all about our ages so it made life more pleasant for us. I remember one winter was quite mild so we kids cleared the snow off a little lake west of us and we had some fine skating

parties. Vergil was older than us but not so old he couldn't have a good time. There were Mattie, Wanita and Pearl. The Lennox kids and three Denisons came. Some didn't have skates, but we had extra ones.

I think it was the year before Andersons came that I was really depressed. There was no school in the winter so I took a notion to sell subscriptions for a paper - the prize being a Shetland pony. It was ridiculous for me to try such a thing. I rode over those hills trying to find people to sell to. One of the last places I remember calling at was about two-thirty in the afternoon and cold as blazes - twenty-five below zero. When this guy found out what I was doing he was surprised and shocked and invited me in to get warm. I don't remember just what he said but it must have put me straight as I quit after that. I'm sure my mother worried a lot.

Talk about cold trips and close calls with the roads and weather! One time I had to take a young gilt over to Elliott's, at least seven miles away, in a sleigh box with Billy, my cow pony, and another bigger horse borrowed to make a team. There was no broken trail to follow, just enough prairie road showing to show me the way until I got far enough east to follow fence lines. As soon as we got the pig loaded, about two in the afternoon and not very warm, I set out. Dad had to take the train to Viking to go to the bank. I was supposed to get back from Elliott's to do the chores.

It was pretty slow going. There were snow drifts everywhere. Sometimes the sleigh runners would break through on one side and not the other so I was close to tipping over many times. I got there around sundown. The horses and I were covered with frost and I was pretty cold. When we unloaded the pig and I said I must start back he said "Oh no, you can't do that. It's getting colder and you'd never make it." When I told him what I was supposed to do he said "Well, you can probably make it if you let the horses have their heads and they will take you home. As you will be riding bareback, you won't get too cold." I did as I was told and made it home.

Dad wasn't to be home until the next day, but in the meantime we were out of fuel. A neighbor, Jimmie Lockhart, was supposed to pick up some coal in town and bring it out that night. As it turned out there was no coal in town. Now that night turned very cold. Everything in the house was frozen and no fuel to burn. What to do! There were no phones in those days. I got on my Billie horse again and rode over to Carl Ahlf's to see if I could borrow some coal from him. He was surprised to see me. My dad and he had been on the outs over the taxes, but I always thought Carl was a good guy. "Yes," he said, "You can have some coal under those circumstances." He hitched up his team and loaded up enough coal to last a couple of days. He told me not to trot the horses or they would freeze their lungs on a cold day like it was.

When Dad got back to Jarrow and found there had been no coal delivered to our place, he knew we would be in a bad way. The weather was so bad he couldn't get anyone to take him out so he decided to walk. It was about six miles through unsettled country - no fences to go by. He walked until he saw light which guided him till

he reached our fence. He staggered into our house all in. His face and the fronts of his legs were frozen badly, but he was very glad when he saw the coal by the door.

I will now tell about some of the other families. Perriot, a middle-aged couple, had two teen-aged children. Bob Perriot enlisted in the army in the first world war and was killed. Bob's sister married George Works and later died in childbirth. The Perriots left the district after that.

There were two other families - the Sam Murray family and the Jim Murray family. Sam's family consisted of his wife and two daughters, Mabel and Jessie, as well as a son Robert. The Jim Murray family consisted of two sons, Frank and Jim. Jim was killed in World War 1. Frank was in business in Kinsella for many years.

Then there were the Overbos and the Bechells, whose places were close to the railroad between Jarrow and Kinsella.

The Bob and Harry Meakins families lived in the Jarrow district. Bob married Lizzie Michael. I must not forget the Moore families who seemed to be the best off financially and very good people too. The Moores settled a mile north of Jarrow before most of us came. They had many horses which they sold to homesteaders. That is where we got our first team. Earl Moore, one of the grown up sons, bought the Kebler place (where Tobe Smith lives). We lived on the Correction Line S.E. 2-47-10-W4th. Dad homesteaded a hilly half section east of us. He eventually sold it to Mr. Moore. When Dad started dealing with Moores, he got a good start in cattle. Before we sold out in 1918 we had about eighty head of cattle



Laura and Paul Loring and grandson, Mathew, in 1981.

and six horses. We bought a red poll bull from Elliotts. We sold out in 1918 and the cattle and horses brought a good price as the war was on and prices high.

In later years I got to know Charlie Archibald, also Emil Worth. Other settlers living north of us were Hollars, Shippys, Greenwoods and Marborays who lived north of Bridgemans. Bob Deverick came in around 1920. He married Gladys Bridgeman and lived in California.

The Holts came in while we were still here. I remember

Gladys Smith before she married Joe Mac Holt. Gladys and her sister would bring cream to Jarrow in the buggy to ship to Viking. It must have been about a twelve mile trip.

Bob Deverick and Harold McDougal went into the garage business in Jarrow. Harold was a good mechanic. As there was not enough business for two men, Bob went to work on the Scuse ranch west of Jarrow. These people had brought up many head of horses from the south where they were dried out. That finished cutting hay on the open land. Bob was a colorful cowboy. For awhile he worked for Bridgemans. Later Bob got a job with Col. Rohrer breaking his many horses.

Things that stand out in my memory are the prairie fires that burned in the unsettled, hilly country surrounding Batt Valley. Wild fowl were everywhere - ducks, prairie chickens. Rabbits and coyotes were plentiful, but no deer until later.

When the ranchers came up from the south, all the young fellows became cowboys, chaps and all. I think it was around 1922 that Jarrow put on its first stampede. Two brothers who went by the name of the "Chicago Boys" and living in the "murder belt", brought in a trained bucking horse. There were no corrals or chutes to handle such a horse so it had to be snubbed up to another horse. They called for volunteers to ride. A young Indian boy volunteered. The horse was a trained bucker alright. It was blindfolded so the boy could get on and be given the rope. They put on quite a show, but the boy soon fell off. Soon they were calling for other volunteers. I decided if we were going to have any kind of show, I'd have to be the goat. As I was not dressed for bronc busting I asked for a pair of chaps, which they gladly provided. They told me if I rode this animal without pulling leather, they'd make it worth my while. I got on and they pulled off the blindfold and that little bronze sure went at it. I kept me hands up and after the horse sunfished for awhile he headed for the bush. The other cowboys were so surprised to see if I'd stayed on they forgot their job of hazing the animal away from the bush. After coming out of the second bush the horse hit a deeply rutted prairie trail and fell down. I stepped clear. Pretty soon here comes a tall fellow by the name of Tamarac Ambler with a hatful of dollar bills. He'd been around calling out "Pay a guy who can ride like that!" What a name I made for myself!

One time my parents started out for town. A sudden blizzard came up and obliterated the road. Billy, the horse, took the line of least resistance and wandered into a fairly long alkali lake. They didn't know they were off the road until they came to their tracks again. A neighbor, riding to town on horseback, soon discovered what was happening and got them back on the road to town.

When Dad had to go out to work the second year, the only job available was on the railroad with the section crew. At first he thought he would stay in town with the crew, but soon found out they were lousy so that ended that. He decided to drive the six miles from home. As he didn't like horseback riding, it meant he had to break Billy to harness. This turned into quite a job but Billy eventually was broken.

Stan Bridgeman told me a story about he, his brother George and their father coming from town in their Model T. Ford. George was driving and the road was a rutted trail full of badger mounds. As the Model T. hit the badger holes, the cream cans and groceries went flying. Another time George and Stan were going to town with the cream. They picked up Mabel Murray and their cream on the way. Stan sat in the back seat with the three cans of cream. About a mile out of town the road was covered by water from the spring runoff. They hit the water going full tilt hoping their momentum would carry them through. They hit something under the water and everything flew up into the air. The covers came off the cream cans and Stan was covered from head to foot with cream and muddy water.

BOB LOVE

by Doris Fenton

Bob Love was born in Scotland on the Isle of Butte in 1892. He took agricultural training on the farm of a Dr. Cosser who arranged overseas jobs for his workers whereby the employer would pay the forty-five dollars passage in installments and each worker was paid five dollars a month.

Bob landed in Canada in 1914 the day World War I was declared and sent to a farm owned by the Ross Brothers in New Brunswick. There he worked in a granite quarry getting out paving blocks for the city of St. John, as well as milking twelve cows night and morning. When his employers became delinquent in payment of the passage money, Dr. Cosser's Canadian manager found work for Bob at another farm and later at the Cosser farm at Gagetown. He remembers fine times skating on the St. John river and harness horse racing on the ice New Year's Day.

During the twenties Bob worked on a potato farm in Maine. In 1926 he came west on a harvest excursion, arriving at Vulcan, Alberta at the beginning of a long wet spell. A week or more later with only two dollars left, he approached George Galbraith on the street and asked for work. He was told to come out to the farm and split wood for a day, he stayed ten years.

Wanting to work with beef cattle he went to work for Arthur Crawford Frost at Nanton who kept registered Herefords. While there he went to his first bull sale and became devoted to the Hereford breed. He and John Hay took cattle on the show circuit in Montana and Ontario as well as the prairies. In those days before The Hayes classification, beef shows might have as many as twenty classes and show herds would have fourteen or more head plus Holstein nurse cows.

He worked for Gallingers, Killearn Shorthorn farm at Tofield, the Hereford Division of the Richardson Stock Farms in Manitoba and fed bulls for Walter Bissell of Viking. He was with the Zeiglers of Vegreville when they had Reserve Grand Champion and high selling bull at the Calgary Bull sale and with Earl and Gil Garner, High River to show the Grand Champion bull at the first Edmonton Futurity show. He spent a year at the Hereford farm of Walter Cummings near Toronto and some time at Spooner's Ardmere Ranch at Millarville.

He had a kitchen job with North West Utilities when the pipeline was built from Kinsella to the Wainwright Army Camp.

Bob came to Irma to Fentons in 1957. Although he came to work with cattle he also picked roots and rocks, shovelled grain and helped keep track of small boys while Doris Fenton rode. The only time the Fentons ever saw Bob ride was the weekend donkey baseball came to Irma. He was with the Fenton cattle at the Toronto Winter Fair the year Stuart won Premier Breeder.

Bob has collected a few scars over the years. He suffered a broken leg when he walked into a stallion in the dark while rushing out to check a cow due to calve, but walks as good as ever now. He received a cut that required stitches on one side of his head that he got when Stuart dropped an oil drum on him. There is a matching mark on the other side caused when the truck endgate was thrown out on him.

An ardent sports fan Bob can recall history and accomplishments of hockey and football stars for years back as well as stars of many other sports. For weeks during calving season he spent his nights with the radio tuned to one event and the T.V. to another at the same time. He enjoys races at Northlands. He buys numerous lottery tickets regularly spending anything he wins on more tickets. Local clubs are given his generous support. In short he enjoys life.

H.W. LOVE FAMILY

by Muriel Thurston

H.W. (Harry) Love was one of the early pioneers of the Irma district, arriving here in April of 1909. Before settling in this area he had lived in widely separated parts of North America.

His earliest profession was that of a pharmacist in Toronto, where he married Ada Ralphena Brecken. His son, John Russell, was born in Toronto. In 1898 he and his family moved to Spokane, Washington, where he continued as a pharmacist, and also had a farm. It is here that their second child, Martha Irene, was born.

After six years in Spokane they again packed up and moved back to Toronto, where Harry and his brother, Percy, had a construction business. They built hundreds of brick houses every year. They then decided Toronto was big enough, and in 1909 Harry moved to Irma. They



H. W. and Ada Love and Family Irene, Grace and Russel.

lived in the Dave Ho house.

With the Loves, when they came to Irma, were the William King family; Mrs. King was a sister of Mrs. Love's, also the Sid Miles family. Mr. Miles was a former employee of Mr. Love while in Toronto. On arriving in Wainwright Harry made a deal with the engineer of the train to push their settler's effects in front of the train to Farrell's crossing, within one mile of the end of the steel on the G.T.P. Railway. Farrell's crossing is the crossing north of Ted Hill's farm.

Mr. Love had sections five, seven and nine of 46-8-W4th. They lived on section five. The Loves did not like Alberta winters. They spent the winter in Toronto or Spokane the first few years after coming here. Grace Mildred Love was born in Spokane on January 20th, 1912.

One year Mr. Love had many farmers growing potatoes. They had a large roothouse close to the railway in Irma, and they shipped the potatoes by train. This didn't turn out to be a profitable business, and was soon forgotten.

He was always interested in the gas and oil business, and invested in some wells, but never got rich.

During the flu of 1919, the sick were taken to the United Church, and Mr. Love helped to take care of them. His daughter, Irene, did the laundry for the sick.

Upon moving to the town of Irma, Harry undertook a wide variety of business ventures, the first of these being instrumental in establishing the first Irma Co-op store, which he also managed. In 1916 he began the Irma Times, the local newspaper, and continued as editor until leaving Irma. The first telephone exchange was another enterprise started by Harry. He had the local telephone lines connected to the Co-op store, and arranged that any two lines could be connected.

He was also in the well-boring business with Tom Wood. He financed the business, and Tom bored the wells. Harry's final venture was commercial honey. This he started in 1925. His son-in-law, Jack Wilson, joined him in 1930, and in 1934 they moved the business from Irma to Edmonton. His honey was known as "Pride of the Prairies Honey". Harry was the first to ship a carload of honey by rail out of Edmonton.

Harry obtained the title of Alberta's Johnny Appleseed. He drove all over Alberta selling honey, and often as he drove, he would throw clover seed out of the window of his car. He thought clover in the ditches was better than weeds, and it was good for the honey bees.

Due to ill health Harry retired in 1945, and died in Vancouver on December 22nd, 1946.

Mrs. Love lived in the Corona Hotel for several years after Harry's death, and then moved to the Battle River Lodge in Wainwright. She passed away in Wainwright in January of 1961.

JOHN RUSSELL LOVE

Born January 9, 1895, to Harry W. Love and Ada Ralphena Breckon in Toronto. He moved with his parents to Spokane, Washington in 1898, where Harry was a druggist. In 1904 they returned to Toronto.

The family moved to Irma in 1909 but Russell moved to Edmonton to complete his high school at Victoria High School. He boarded with Henry J and Nettie Saigeon. From 1912 to 1915 he attended the University of Alberta. He was an outstanding athlete and played on the championship teams of basketball and football. In 1915 he joined the army as a sergeant ("E" Battery, Lethbridge 4th Division) and was sent to Kingston, Ontario for training. He had excellent grades but was so anxious to go, he did not complete training and left for overseas from Halifax on a cattle boat, crowded into three stalls. At the end of the war he attended the University of Edinburgh, Scotland - 1918 - 1919. He returned to Edmonton and completed his B.A. Degree at the University of Alberta in 1920. From 1920-21 Russell returned to IRMA and entered the dairy business. In 1921 he was elected to the U. F. A. government for Wainwright, becoming the youngest member of the legislature. In 1925 he married Catherine Isobel MacCrimmon of Edmonton, and they had three daughters, Joan, Marion and Joyce. In 1930 Catherine died.



Russel and Katie Love.

Russell married Dorothy Kinney of Edmonton in 1935. Later in 1935 the U. F. A. government was defeated by the Social Credit. Russell bought a farm and built a home on the land which is now 156 Street and 95 Avenue in Edmonton.

Russell was deeply involved in the Co-operative movement throughout Canada and his other interests were varied and many.

In 1957, The Loves bought the Shenfield house on Clifton Place and moved from the farm. Russell and his wife Dorothy travelled extensively and in 1962 they went to China with the J. B. Browns. In 1964



Dorothy and J. Russell Love in Hawaii around 1976.

Russell led a delegation of Canadians to China to help develop trade between the two countries. Until August 1965 Russell continued his involvement in co-operatives, and many other interests.

In August 1965 he suffered a severe stroke, but with his determination and zest for life he overcame many of the handicaps and was able to continue to enjoy many of his interests, including for many years his annual three months in Hawaii.

On February 9, 1981 at the age of 86, John Russell Love died. Russell is survived by his wife Dorothy, three daughters, Joan Pettinger, Marion House, Joyce Anderson, eleven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Russell Love owned the land where Jack Veer lives.

LOVIG - PARE NEE ELFORD

Clarence and Jean Lovig moved to Edmonton in 1947. They had four children, Lyall, Brian, Grant and Gail. After selling their Auction Mart in Clover Bar, they moved to Vermilion in 1959 where they owned and operated an auction market, later adding another auction market in Vegreville. Clarence died in 1979 and was buried in Sharon Lutheran Church cemetery.

The oldest child, Lyall, became involved full time in the cattle business. He lived with his grandparents (Elfords) on their farm in Ardrossan until he married Cynthia Sharhan, also of Ardrossan. He worked part time as a Brand Inspector from 1968 to 1978 at the Edmonton Stockyards. They moved to their own land in 1977 in the Ardrossan area. Their children - Carla and Laryn - attend Uncas community school. In 1978 and 1979 Lyall was fieldman and auctioneer at the Wainwright Auction Mart. An ardent wildfowl and big game hunter in the 1960's around Vermilion, he continues to hunt whenever possible.

The second oldest, Brian, was the youngest auctioneer of the four auctioneering children. He began selling rabbits at age seven and selling horses and other livestock when age nine. Among the Auction Markets he operated was the Wainwright Auction Mart, bought in 1977 and

sold in 1979. He enjoyed auctioneering of all types of goods but probably enjoyed his land auctions most. He married Linda Soldan of Vermilion, a nursing school graduate. They have five children - Lane, Landon, Christy, Kerri Ann and Reagan. Living south of Sherwood Park, Brian remains an entrepreneur and auctioneer.

Third oldest, Grant, married Frieda Boier of Vermilion. They have two children, Amanda and Jordon. After working with Turbo Resources in Edmonton, Winnipeg, Saskatoon and back to Edmonton as Regional Manager, Grant left the company to work full time with his mother in the family business of publishing cookbooks. He lives in Sherwood Park with an office there as well as Vermilion.

The youngest, Gail, married Tom Crisp of Vermilion. She auctioned in the Wainwright Auction Mart as well as other locations. She auctioned in the finals of the World Auctioneers' contest held in Calgary in 1979. She works for the family publishing business being in charge of Western Canada Sales. They live south of Sherwood Park.

Jean married Larry Pare of Vermilion. She began a catering career in 1963. She published her first cookbook in 1981 which quickly became a best seller. The second, third and fourth books were published in 1982, 1983 and 1984 with one per year planned to follow. The offices and warehouse are located in Vermilion as well as branch offices in Toronto and Denver. All of her four children and their spouses travel to Book Fairs in Canada and the United States to assist in the marketing of the Company's coming cookbook series. October, 1984 saw the one millionth book printed.

OBERT LOVIG FAMILY

Obert Lovig was born in South Dakota and moved with his parents to Ponoka around 1911. They moved to Jarrow area around 1916 or 17. Obert attended school at Jarrow, was taught by Olivia Theroux, and took some schooling at Viking. He took two years schooling at Camrose Lutheran College.

Mabel Fuder was born on the farm in the Coal Springs



Obert Lovig with his first car, 1928, used in his Rawleigh business.

district in 1909 and took all her schooling at Coal Springs. Mabel Macdonald was Mabel's first teacher.

Obert and Mabel were married in 1931 and moved to Irma to make their home. Obert had the Rawleigh business for about four years. They raised a family of twelve children. During the lean years of the thirties they kept a cow, for milk, butter and cream, chickens for meat and eggs and a pig or two for meat.

In 1934 Obert sold cars for Mr. Carbol who owned a service station where Median Automotive stands today. Later he and his brother Adolph, with Ben Sather as the mechanic, had a shop where Ed Haugen has his business. Obert expanded his business to include selling Oliver machinery. During the war years he could not obtain machinery to sell so got out of that business and started buying hogs for Burns Company. He bought pigs until 1971 when he suffered a stroke and was unable to carry on. Mabel looked after Obert who was in a wheelchair for several years until his death in 1976.



Lovig children - Mervin, Ronald, Orville.

All the children attended school at Irma. Orville became a heavy duty mechanic and is working for John Deere in Wainwright. He married Shirley Jones and they had four children, Brenda, Rita, Wendy and Blaine.

Mervin became a chiropractor and practised in Wainwright until his death in 1971.

Ronnie works for Northwestern Utilities Ltd. in Irma. He married Darlene Veer who is a teacher in Irma school. They have two daughters Rhonda and Kerri.

Marian worked in the Irma Hotel. She married Victor Nesdoly and they live in Calgary. They have four children, Dennis, Dianne, Debbie and Donna.

Gordon worked for years at the Army Camp. He never married. He makes his home with his mother in Irma. At present he is working for Fuller Austin.

Arthur is a school caretaker in Calgary. He married Loretta Brokop of Irma and they had two children, Ricky and Randy. This marriage did not work out and Arthur is remarried.

Shirley worked in the Irma hotel until she married Ken Gilbertson. After several moves, they are now living in Victoria. They have Cindy and Dean for a family.

Carol worked in the hotel and married Wayne Brososky and they live in Edmonton where Wayne owns a trucking business. They have three children, Bradley, Melanie and Craig.

Donna married Bill Millar and they have two children, Terri and Melissa. Bill went to school in Irma and his

mother, Mrs. Millar taught grade three in Irma for years. They live in Edmonton.

Joyce worked at the hotel until she married Roger Larson of Irma. They have three children, Kirk, Kim and Leonard. Roger is part owner of Median Automotives as well as farms.

Linda married Don Levers and they live on a farm near Kingman with their four children Darren, Kevin, Charlene and Curtis.

Clare is working for Schlumberger logging oil wells - mostly at Inuvik and many northern points. He married in 1983 to Peggy Knowles of Wainwright.

Mabel continues to live in Irma in the home they've had for thirty-eight years. Their first house in Irma was in the vicinity of where Goldie Larson lives. They paid seven dollars per month rent. In 1935 they moved to the former Savage house on the west side of town.

Mabel belongs to the Senior Citizens Club in Irma and has belonged to Irma L.O.B.A. for many years.

OLAF LOVIG

Mr. Lovig was born in Aaluson, Norway in 1877. When he was nine years old he came with his parents to Day County, South Dakota. In 1901 he was united in marriage to Sana Hoem at Webster, S.D. He took a course at Veterinary Dental College in Detroit which he completed in 1911. Throughout his life he put his veterinary work first whenever called upon.

In 1912 the Lovigs moved to Canada, settling first at Ponoka. The following year they homesteaded north of Jarrow where Vergil Micheal lives today. Later they moved south of Jarrow (Elina McKee's farm) and lived there until 1953 when they retired in Jarrow.

To this union fourteen children were born: Obert married Mabel Fuder and they lived in Irma and raised twelve children. Sophie married John Ostad who owned a garage in Irma. They had three girls. Adolph married a girl from Vermilion. He is deceased. Borghild is married and lives in Wetaskiwin. Annie married Sam Black and lives in Edmonton. Emil married a Chauvin girl. He is deceased.

Gilbert married Elsie Bridgeman. He lives in Wetaskiwin. Gilbert's twin, Martin, married Essie McLaughlan. They live in Gibbons. Clarence married Jean Elford. He is deceased. Ida married Stan Bridgeman. Stan is deceased. Ida remarried and lives in Vernon. Alma married Bill Yakes. She is in Edmonton. Stanley married a girl from



Mr. Olaf Lovig

Carvel Corner. He is deceased. Walter married but is deceased. Henry married Yvonne Brown. He is deceased.

After Olaf's death, Mrs. Lovig moved her house to Irma where she resided until her death in 1960. John Ganie bought her house and remodelled it into his present home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lovig are buried at Sharon Lutheran Church.

FRANCIS CHESTER LUKENS

by Robert Lukens

Francis Chester Lukens was born in 1880 at Bald Bluff, Henderson County, Illinois, U.S.A. It was here he grew up and took his schooling. In 1903 he married Anna Brown of Kirkwood, Illinois. Their only daughter Marjorie (Mrs. Alex Rankin) of Earl Cove, B.C. was born before they moved to Canada in 1906. Their four sons, Francis, Robert, Ralph and Clair were all born in Alberta. Kenneth, their eldest son, passed away in Calgary of diphtheria at an early age. They made their home in Calgary for a time where he worked as a teamster.



Clair, Ralph, Mr. Lukens, Marj, Bob and Francis.

In 1919 they moved to a farm two miles south of Halkirk, Alberta, where they farmed for a few years. In the wintertime he worked in the coal mines near there. The family took most of their schooling in Halkirk.

In 1927 they moved to the Irma district where they farmed north of town. The family were involved in quite a few sports and Mrs. Lukens was a member of the Women's Missionary Society and the Alberta Women's Institute.

As the years rolled by the sons got married and each went on his own. In the early 1940's the two youngest sons, Ralph and Clair, joined the army and went to war. They served overseas on active duty. Mrs. Lukens passed away on April 18th, 1940.

In 1942 Mr. Lukens left the farm and moved to Wainwright. In 1948 he married Mrs. Annie Pollard. On November 29th, 1959 Mr. Lukens passed away. His son, Ralph, passed away in 1965.

The farm on which they lived north of Irma is presently owned by his grandson, Don Lukens.

One is judged by what he finished and not what he starts.

FRANCIS (LEFTY) LUKENS FAMILY

by Brenda Lukens

Francis was born in Carbon, Alberta on September 8, 1910. The family farmed at Halkirk, Alberta until 1928, at which time Francis moved with his parents and three brothers to farm north of Irma. In 1930 the family moved to the land presently farmed by Robert Lukens. Francis was a trained boxer and boxed such noteables as the Edson Kid, Battling Romo, Johnny Walsh and others. He won all his bouts except one by knockouts. Francis was a member of the Irma I.O.O.F. Lodge. Always an avid sportsman, he played hockey with the Irma Club in the Gasline League, and baseball with the Irma Club. In the early thirties he attended the Vermilion School of Agriculture.

In 1935 he married Brenda Kitchen of Hardisty, and we settled on a farm north of Irma. I was born November 24, 1909 in Wolverhampton, England. I immigrated to Hardisty, Alberta in 1911 with my Mother, Mary Davidson Downie Kitchen, two sisters and a brother. Our father, William, had arrived in Hardisty in 1910, obtained a position with the C.P.R. and had prepared a home in anticipation of our arrival.



1939: Brenda (Mrs. Francis Lukens), Ralph Lukens and wife Jean, Claire Lukens, Mrs. Lukens, Senior, Mr. Francis Lukens, Senior, and grandson Bob.

In the spring of 1936, we had a few beautifully fattened steers that were only worth one cent per pound on the market. They were turned out to pasture and eventually sold for two cents per pound. Butter sold for ten cents a pound and eggs were ten cents a dozen, if you were lucky enough to find someone with ten cents to spare. In the late 1930's dressed frying chickens sold for twenty-five cents each. We could not ship our poultry or livestock to market because the freight cost was more than the livestock was worth.

By today's standards we would be considered poor, but we never thought of ourselves as being poor. We were busy and happy. Our social life was not lacking. Every second week, in the winter, all the neighbors gathered in one home or another to play cards and visit. These functions cost us ten cents each. The money was used to buy prizes. Once a month a social and dance was held in our district schoolhouse. The cost per person was much higher of course - twenty-five cents each. The musician which was usually Francis, would be paid anything from fifty cents to the enormous sum of three dollars and fifty

cents, depending on how many attended the function. Those were the "good old days". Teachers were being paid six hundred dollars a year and they managed to teach nine grades.

Because of the drought and hail in the mid 1930's, the farmers in our district were permitted to work out their taxes by building roads with a team of horses and fresno, or a tractor. We milked eight to twelve cows seven days a week, and the creamery paid us three dollars and fifty cents for a five gallon can of cream.

In March of 1948, (such a short time ago) we sold out and moved to Hardisty. We purchased the Meat Market from George Szoke and proceeded to build the locker plant, which became known as Lefty's Lockers. Two years later we again enlarged the original building and added the grocery line. Lefty's Foodland was born and thrived until we sold out and retired in July, 1977.

Francis is a life member of the Elks Lodge Number 167 of Hardisty. I am a life member of the O.O.R.P. Lodge Number 156.



*Francis Lukens Junior,
Francis Lukens, Senior,
Claire, Robert, and Bob
(son of Francis, Junior).*

In the late 1950's we were able to organize and get a senior hardball club going in Hardisty. From 1961-1963 I was President of the Hardisty and District Chamber of Commerce, the second woman in Alberta to be elected to head a Chamber of Commerce. In 1960 we started working to raise funds to build a new curling rink. The Hardisty Fund Raising Committee was formed, of which I was elected chairwoman. With the cooperation of the Hardisty and district people, the spanking new, three sheet curling rink was completed in 1962.

Our son Francis Robert (Bob) was born in Mannville on June 27, 1938 and our daughter, Marilyn Kathleen, was born in Mannville on January 28, 1944. After graduation Marilyn took a business course in Edmonton and then taught piano. She joined an entertainment group known as the Scott Sisters, and travelled extensively in Canada and the United States. She left the group in The Pas, Manitoba, where she accepted a position with Churchill Forest Industries as manager of personnel. While there she took pilot lessons and got her pilot's license. She married her instructor on September 2, 1972 and moved to Ontario. Their son Bryan Lukens Schauber was born January 3, 1981. Marilyn moved to Wainwright in 1983 where she operates "Marilyn's Photo and Frame Shop".

FRANCIS ROBERT (BOB) LUKENS

by Doreen Lukens

Bob was born in Mannville, Alberta on June 27, 1938, to Francis and Brenda Lukens, and spent his early years on the farm north of Irma. In March 1948, he moved with his family to Hardisty, where he went to school and helped with the family business.

On November 25, 1960, Bob married Doreen Anne Munson of Duncan, British Columbia. We took up residence on Bob's farm, the former Doug Bell farm, five miles north of Hardisty. Bob played the saxophone with the local orchestra. He also enjoyed sports, playing hockey with the Hardisty Stampeders and baseball with Bonnie Doon. We both enjoyed curling and have managed to bring home a few trophies. In 1964 we purchased the Floyd Bronson farm which joined us on the north and east, and in 1969 the Lloyd Stuart farm on the west. We have three children. Jae Anne born November 22, 1961; Shari Lee on July 6, 1963 and Robert Francis on February 11, 1965.

Bob took flying lessons and received his pilot's license in April 1968, and in August of that year we bought our first aircraft, a Cessna 170B. We made our own landing strip north of the house and eventually built a hangar. With the outbreak of army worms in 1971, we purchased our first agricultural aircraft, a Piper Pawnee, in which Bob sprayed many acres of valuable rape crops. The flying business proved very interesting to us, so in November 1971, we incorporated into a company Air Agro Services Limited, and have been spraying crops every year since. After our disastrous hangar fire in February 1983, in which we lost six of our aircraft, we rebuilt our hangar, and now own and operate the only Turbine agricultural aircraft in Western Canada, an Ayres Turbo-Thrush.

We moved into our new home in October 1978, which seemed enormous after our little old house, however we always seem to have extras around. Jae married Russell Copeland of Irma on May 10, 1980. They have three boys; Micheal born March 16, 1982, and twins Jeff and Greg born February 20, 1984. Jae still finds time to teach music and make delicious suckers. Shari is in Orillia, Ontario following her figure skating career. She is coaching at the Mariposa School of Skating. Rob is still at home, working with his dad in the crop spraying business.

ROBERT LUKENS

by Marion Lukens

My father W.D. Ramsay was born and raised in Prince Edward Island and when a young man went to work in a lumber camp in New Hampshire on September 26th, 1905. They lived there until 1910 when they came to Alberta and settled in Edmonton, where my father worked as a street-car conductor for a time.

My two older brothers Raymond and William were both born in the U.S.A. I was born in Edmonton and when a few weeks old I came with my parents and two brothers to live on a farm in the Orbindale district.

A year and a half later we moved to our homestead in

the Albert district which was my home until I married.

I took all my schooling at Albert school, which at that time was a one-roomed school and had one teacher for all grades, from one to nine. We walked two and one-half miles to school all summer and in the winter used a horse and cutter. At that time we went to school during July and August and had January and February as holidays.

When I finished school, I stayed home on the farm to help with the housework and chores. In those days we milked quite a few cows and all by hand. We had no milking machines like they have today. I had five brothers and two sisters, so there was a great deal of cooking and washing to be done. Despite all the hard work we had to do, we had our good times as well.

Our home was a place where young people used to gather and we all had many happy memories of these days. In by-gone days all our social activities such as dances, box socials and card parties were held in the schoolhouses.

In the summer each community held their annual picnics and of course the baseball games were the main attraction as each district or town had a team. During the summer every Saturday afternoon the people of the community would gather at the picnic grounds for a friendly ball game. It was at these ball games that I became acquainted with Bob Lukens and as time went on we saw more of each other.

The Lukens family of four boys and their parents had come to the Irma district in 1927 from Halkirk, Alberta, and settled on a farm in the Orbindale district for about four years, then moving to their farm in the Education Point district north of Irma, where they made their home. Bob finished his schooling at Orbindale and attended the Vermilion School of Agriculture for one term. He played baseball with the Orbindale Red Stars and later with the Irma team. Over the years as they played at various sports days they won top money most of the time.

Bob also played hockey with the old Gas Line League which had four teams - Irma, Viking, Holden and Tofield. He also played hockey with a league north of Irma.



Bob and Marion Lukens in the 1940's.



Bob, Marion, Maureen and Don, 1979.

On December 6th, 1935 Bob and I were married and took up farming on his farm north of Irma where we still live. Bob was also trouble man for the North Irma Mutual Telephone Co. for many years, until the phone line went underground.

We have a family of two, one son and one daughter.

Don, our son, took part of his schooling at Education Point, and when it closed the pupils were bussed to Albert Centralized School until High School. The high school pupils were then bussed to Irma. In 1963 after finishing high school, he decided he wanted to farm. Don belonged to the Navy League and Sea Cadets for a number of years. He is now married to the former Brenda Weaver and they live on their farm with their two sons and daughter. Gene is thirteen years old; Donald is ten and Laura is three. Don also served two terms as trustee on the Wainwright School Board, the last term as chairman.

Maureen, our daughter, started her schooling at Albert Centralized and when in Grade six the pupils were bussed to Irma school, she finished her schooling and graduated in 1972. She also graduated from C.G.I.T. and was President for a time of the Busy Beavers W.I. Girls Club. After graduating from high school Maureen enrolled in the University of Alberta, taking four years in Education where she received her Bachelor of Education degree. In 1976 she taught school in Tofield. At the present time she is working in Edmonton with computers.

I was a member of the Albert W.I. and also a charter member of the Buffalo Coulee W.I. of which I am secretary.

You can never get ahead of anyone as long as you are trying to get even with him.

ERNIE AND SHIRLEY LUSK

by Shirley Lusk

Ernie and I both lived in the Bruce district. I, Shirley (nee Barker), middle daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Barker, lived south of Bruce, on a farm. I came from a big family of six brothers and five sisters, counting myself. I spent quite a few days walking to school, or in summer we went by buggy and in winter by cutter pulled by a horse named Dolly. Many happy days were spent with my brothers and sisters, travelling back and forth to school. The last few years I attended, the bus started on our route. Ernie lived north of Bruce, the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. James Lusk of Bruce. Ernie's dad was well-known for his bucking horses which they took to Bruce and Clover Lodge Stampedes.

Ernie walked or rode horseback to school, or sometimes went on a toboggan pulled by a horse, with a few of the neighbours riding along. Ernie attended the East Bruce and Woodside schools.

In October, 1957 we were married in Bruce. We made our home in Viking where Ernie was in the gravel business. After moving around a bit, we moved back to Viking to the Merta farm. In 1961 Cathy joined our family.

In July, 1961 we moved to the Howard Hogg farm, still hauling gravel. A little later on Ernie decided to change to general trucking in that area. Then in 1962 we moved to the Simmons place by Kinsella, where we lived for a year or so. Ernie worked in the John Daugherty garage during slack times. We then bought the Soneff house at Jarrow, where Ernie started a bit of swathing along with the trucking.

In June, 1965, Mark joined our family. Meanwhile Ernie is still in the trucking business, and switched to Backhoe Service.



Ernie and Shirley Lusk's 25th anniversary with Cathy and Mark.

I remember a very funny incident that happened while we were living in Kinsella. We had some neighbours that visited the Kinsella bar every day and night. One night in the early spring thaw, we heard knocking, then louder knocking, on our door. It seems they had got stuck in the mud near our place - this happened once in a while. They had come for a pull or a push. At that time our dog named Skipper, was sleeping in the porch. When they kept knocking, we were so used to them coming, that we didn't answer the door, as it was not far for them to walk home. The dog barked and barked - the callers got disgusted and ventured back to the car. Due to all the commotion, Ernie got hungry. When the frig door opened the light came on, and the neighbours started tooting their horn. No more stopping for help for a while! This goes to show that you shouldn't get up to eat when you are supposed to be asleep.

Cathy is presently working at Battle River Lodge. Mark is attending Grade 10 in the Irma School.

LYMBURNER FAMILY

Alonzo (Lon) Lymburner, my husband, was born March 10th, 1877, Haldimand County, Ontario; and I, Alice (Shannon) Lymburner, was born September 19th, 1885, in my father's homestead house in Holt County, Nebraska.

The Lymburner family was living in Becker County, Minnesota, when I moved there with my parents in 1897. Eventually Lon and I met and were engaged to be married. Lon and my father came to sunny Alberta and filed on homesteads southwest of what is now the town of Killam. Lon's homestead was the N.E. 22-43-14-W4, and father's was two miles west.

In March, 1905, I came with my parents by passenger train and Lon came in a boxcar with his three horses, two cows, farm machinery and other settlers' effects. At that time Wetaskiwin was the end of the railroad. There were no roads and few fences and we drove eighty-five miles across country to our homesteads. I stayed with my parents and Lon lived in a tent while he built a house with lumber he brought from Minnesota, and seeded ten acres of land he had hired plowed the previous year. Lon and I were married June 29th, 1905, in the first marriage ceremony performed east of Spring Lake.

Like other homesteaders we had good years and some not so good; hard work and house parties; hopes and dreams - some fulfilled and some not; but on the whole they were happy and rewarding years. Lon joined the Masonic Lodge and attained Royal Arch Degree. The nicest Alberta winter I ever saw was 1905-06 and the worst was 1906-07.

By 1918 we had five children: Barton age twelve; Mabel - eleven; Robert (Bob) - nine; Herbert - seven and Alice Beatrice or "Little" Alice as she was called was age six.

Although we now owned a half section of land we needed more pasture for our rapidly increasing herds of purebred Percheron horses and Ayrshire cattle. Our good friends and long time neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Allen, who also practised mixed farming, were the proud owners of a Ford touring car. One bright spring morning

they stopped for Lon and me and we went to look at land north-east of Irma. It was a lovely warm day and when we stopped by the roadside to eat our picnic lunch, we filled up the tank with water from a nearby pond and used our coats to cover the tires so they wouldn't be damaged by the heat of the sun. We liked the country east of Orbindale near Buffalo Coulee and bought the west half of Section 24-47-8-W4.



Lymburner Children in 1917. Barton - 11 years, Mabel - 10 years, Bob - 8 years, Alice - 5 years, Herbert - 6 years.

With wheat at two dollars per bushel many farmers wanted more land and we sold the farm at Strome at a good price. In the first week of June Lon and Barton left for Orbindale with two wagon loads of machinery, feed and seed oats, bedding, a stove, a few other necessary household articles, and all the horses except Elza, an imported Belgian mare, and her two year old colt Mignonette. Lon and Barton stayed with Mrs. Main and her son Bill while they built the house, seeded oats on rented land, and built a corral and barn.

By the first part of August Lon had broken forty acres of sod, and the house was near enough finished for us to move into. Leaving Barton to take care of the horses, Lon came back to move us and the cattle to our new home. I was expecting him so it didn't take long to be ready. Lon's wagon had a high double box containing the stove, furniture, bedding, dishes, and cream separator. The other wagon had a hayrack piled high with various articles, including a big slatted box which held the chickens, and a box at the back in which to put the little calves that were too small to walk that long distance. In the very front was a large trunk whereon I perched and drove the team. My team was Elza and Mignonette; the latter had never had a harness on until the day before we left. Belgian horses are quiet and dependable and everything went fine until we reached the first big coulee hill. My load was more bulk than weight and Lon had fixed up an old harness that was all right on level roads, but when we started down that long hill I realized there might be trouble because there were no martingales.

A martingale is a wide strap that is fastened onto the girth of belly-band which goes around the horse's body behind the front legs; then it is passed forward between the legs and the loop slipped around the neckyoke. The martingale prevents the neckyoke from rising above the horses heads; or the neckyoke might even slip off the end of the wagonpole, letting the pole fall to the ground. I saw that happen once; and the end of the pole stuck into the ground upending the wagon and throwing the driver into the river. By keeping the reins tight and repeating "Whoa! Whoa!" I made the descent safely. I was glad Alice, who was six years old, was riding with Lon and before the next hill I had substitute martingales made with ropes.

We had a half Shetland pony named Major that Bob and Herbert took turns riding to drive the cattle. Part of the time Mabel rode on one of the wagons; but if the cattle were too bothersome she walked - or ran - to help keep them under control. The first night we camped beside the road near a creek, west of Viking. While the cattle grazed we had supper, frying meat and potatoes and boiling coffee over a camp fire. Then we fed and watered the chickens, milked the cows, separated the milk and fed the calves. After grazing for awhile the cattle were tired enough to lie down to rest and so were we. Very early the next morning we did the chores, had breakfast and started on. The next night we drove into a school yard north of Irma where there was a pump. We watered the horses and chickens - and ourselves. The cattle were not thirsty as they had stopped to drink at every slough or roadside pond. After we had supper and did the chores we made our beds in the schoolhouse. The floor was not a soft bed but the mosquitoes couldn't get in to bite us and if it rained we wouldn't get wet. We arrived at our new home at about noon the next day.

Once again the wide open spaces! Orbindale was nothing but a Post Office in a farmer's house, and a small one-room schoolhouse which also served for church service, Sunday School and dances. It was a ranching country, sparsely settled. Except for a corral, we had no fences; the cattle and horses roamed for miles, and the boys had a steady job riding herd. When the heel, or gad flies were bad the cattle would stampede to get relief in water or in a grove of trees.

The range cattle came right up to the house and sometimes put their heads through an open window, or would even break the window panes. They were a nuisance, too, when we were milking, which had to be done outdoors, as there was barn space for only a few horses. One rancher had a big white bull that was particularly obnoxious. Bulls are dangerous animals, often killing a person when angry. One evening when Lon was not there we put the run on all the range cattle except Whitey. He took refuge in a little bunch of trees and refused to leave. Finally, exasperated to the point of being reckless, I took the shotgun, put in two cartridges, walked to the edge of the grove and let the old boy have one shot. He gave a jump, turned, and I pulled the other trigger with good effect. He left and never came back.

One rancher had a large herd of horses which roamed far and wide, often breaking fences and encroaching on private property. There was no herd law in that country;

stock could graze on any unfenced land. It was, however, against the law to let a stallion run at large. The stallion was mean and a menace to people riding horseback or driving in a buggy. With the idea that if he couldn't see he would remain with the herd, the horse had been blinded by burning his eyeballs with a red hot iron. Occasionally the herd would quietly wander away while grazing and the horse would be left alone. Then he would race madly here and there, stop to listen, and when he heard people or a horse passing he would rush after the sound. A twelve year old girl, Lavina Sawdon, riding home from school had the misfortune to be attacked by the vicious animal. He chewed her leg so badly that she was in and out of hospital for many years and was a cripple all her life. Several times our children narrowly escaped being attacked.



Lymburner family. Barton, Lon, Ada, Ward, Mabel, and Bob, grandchildren Ada and Allen, mother Aalice holding Ardith, Alice B., and Hester.

One day the stallion came home with our horses. Lon tied him up and sent Barton with a note telling the owner to come and get his horse. He came, and Lon told him if he ever saw the horse loose again he would shoot it. We never did see it again.

One day that summer just after dinner we heard an unusual sound and rushed outside to investigate. There, up above us was an aeroplane; we were thrilled as that was the first plane we had seen.

It was travelling northwest and we watched until it disappeared. We learned later that it was the first United States Air Mail plane going from Washington D.C. to Fairbanks, Alaska.

We hauled the water for house use in barrels from a neighbor's well, and took the stock about a mile and a quarter north to Buffalo Coulee to water. In some spots along the creek there were muskegs: a wet, mucky sort of soil formation. If a person or animal walked there they would get mired. The more they struggled the farther down they would sink, and if not helped out at once they were soon swallowed by the muskeg. One day soon after we moved there Lulu stepped into the muskeg. Fortunately I had gone with the children that day. By stepping on the tufts of coarse grass we got near enough to fasten a long rope onto Lulu's halter. Barton, Mabel and I stood on dry land and pulled while Bob stood

behind her with a willow whip, giving her a little hit once in a while until she finally gave a last lunge and fell onto solid ground.

Among the poplar groves and along the banks of the ravines grew an abundance of wild fruits; strawberries, raspberries, saskatoons, high bush cranberries, cherries, gooseberries, and red and black currants were there for the picking. We feasted on the fresh berries, made pies, strawberry shortcake, jelly, marmalade, and put up uncounted quarts in sealers for winter use. Pin cherry syrup was delicious on pancakes and biscuits, and the black currants, though a trifle bitter, made an excellent cough remedy.

The Great War, or World War I as it is now called, was still being fought in Europe. Without radios, daily papers, or telephones, news came slowly to farm people. In towns a board was nailed up in a conspicuous place, and when news came over the telegraph it was printed and tacked up on the Bulletin Board for the people to read.

During the war there were ration books, a scarcity of food and clothing, and tight money. After our years of comparative plenty we felt the pinch. Starting on a new farm did not add to affluence as everything was outgo and no income. Christmas was not lavish. Children of today would not consider as gifts, what our children found in their stockings Christmas morning. Each child had a new scribbler and a lead pencil, and there was a small bowl of hard candy that the storekeeper in Irma had given to Lon with our last grocery order. To buy grain to feed poultry was expensive, and we had only a few turkeys and chickens - kept for breeding stock. However, we did have pork and I planned to have baked spare ribs with dressing, potatoes and turnips for Christmas dinner. Wartime sugar rationing restricted the Christmas baking. A family of eight was allowed one pound (about two cupfuls) of sugar a week, and that was the only amount you could buy at one time. Sometimes we could get some syrup or molasses if we took a sealer to get it in, and if the storekeeper had any. A doctor's prescription was needed to get extra sugar for an invalid or for a baby's formula. With a few raisins, spices, and molasses, added to an eggless cake recipe, I made a Christmas cake; and by mixing together a bit of molasses, raisins, spices, fruit juice, bread crumbs and ground prairie chicken meat, I made two mince pies.

We always considered Christmas a family day; but that year we asked the Bill Mains to have dinner with us, as we knew they didn't have meat of any kind. I was making dressing when they came. I knew that it wouldn't taste right without onion, but I didn't have any and would "make do" with salt, pepper and sage. Imagine my surprise and delight! Mrs. Main said: "Here, I brought you an Irish Apple," and handed a nice big onion to me. She said she didn't like to come empty-handed and knew I hadn't a garden. I really appreciated her thoughtfulness and the onion dressing put the finishing touch to the dinner.

Spring again, and with it the many jobs that come with the season. After seeding the grain the next important task was to dig a well. We might have to go deep and digging by hand was time consuming work. We had

heard of "witching" wells, but didn't put much faith in the procedure, and until that time had never seen it done. Bill Main's brother-in-law insisted he could witch a well where we would be certain to get water. We had nothing to lose and although we privately thought the whole thing was superstitious nonsense Lon said to go ahead. Willow is supposed to make the best witching, or divining rod. John Mooney soon had a Y shaped branch, approximately five and one half inches across, cut and peeled. With the crotch pointing down he grasped one prong tightly in each hand and walked here and there, across, and around the location we had chosen for the well.

When the prongs turned in his hands until the main branch was pointing straight down, he declared it indicated an underground stream of water flowed beneath the spot where he stood. It was almost exactly where we wanted the well, and as we had nothing to lose, that is where Lon dug, and found plenty of water about thirty-five feet down.

The schoolhouse was like other one-room rural schools - cold in winter and hot in summer; and the teachers were good, bad or indifferent - mostly good. Lon served a term on the School Board and one year Barton and Bob were janitors. Lon was active in the U.F.A. and when Russell Love, candidate for M.P., was guest speaker at Avonglen schoolhouse, we took our organ in a lumber wagon to be used at the concert and dance that followed.

The fall of 1919 Lon was again separator man for McMahon's at Killam. Due to rain and early snow, threshing was prolonged and Lon was delayed longer than he had anticipated. Our garden and potatoes were again planted on a neighbor's land as the newly turned sod was not suitable for growing anything but grain. On Saturdays and Sundays the children dug, picked, and sacked the potatoes and, using Lulu hitched to the stoneboat, brought them home. When a sudden cold spell came, nearly all the potatoes in Alberta were frozen in the ground, but thanks to the children, ours were safely inside.

That winter was hard on our stock, but for range cattle it was worse. They could not dig through the deep snow to get to the grass and when spring came the prairie was dotted with carcasses which furnished food for the coyotes. A year later the boys earned a little spending money by gathering and selling the bleached bones. They were made into lime, and glue was made from horns and hoofs.

Many settlers depended on cattle for their income more than on grain, and they ate beef for meat because pigs needed to be grain fed. Nowadays when buying pork chops or pork roast the skin is all trimmed off. Our home butchered pork was fried or roasted with the skin on. It would be crisp and crackly and was tasty. One day at school a girl said: "Oh Mabel! Please give me a meat rind. I'm just so hungry for a bite of pork!"

To save their shoes and stockings, children and sometimes grown folks went barefooted in nice weather. It is no wonder that after they grew up and could afford a comfortable living that the memory of those hard days acted as a deterrent to reckless spending. No story of pioneering is considered complete without mentioning

the usefulness of the flour sacks. Our large family consumed a great deal of flour, and besides making dishtowels, pillow cases, bed sheets, nightgowns, petticoats and bloomers, I made shirts for Lon and the boys and dyed them brown. My girls dresses and my work aprons were dyed dark blue.

I learned many ways to economize. A kind neighbor showed me how she made house-slippers for herself and children from pieces of old mackinaw coats. I made mittens from the tops of old wool socks, and for outside mitts I used denim from worn overalls. The thread that I used to sew patches onto Lon's overalls was linen or strong cotton. When the patch wore out I carefully pulled the thread out instead of cutting it, and reused it to sew on the new patches.

At that time most children's clothes were homemade from older peoples partly worn clothes. An elderly bachelor neighbor gave us some old clothes to make over for the children. There were two pairs of navy serge trousers, not exactly the same shade, but I managed to make a pair of pants for Bob. He wore them to Sunday School and thought he was quite dressed up - even though one side was one shade of blue and the other side another shade. I had a lovely beaded plush cape, lined with heavy black cotton flannel and interlined with red flannel. It seemed a shame to spoil such a nice garment, but I could get along without it and Herbert needed underpants. I removed the linings and used the black cloth to make one leg and the red for the other.

Boys wore knee length pants which didn't give much protection to stockings when running through the brush or playing baseball. Oh no, they didn't work all the time. There were picnics, ball games; and concerts and dances in the schoolhouses. And, Wonders of Wonders! A neighbor had a radio and we were invited there to spend an evening to hear the new machine. It blared loudly, faded away, stuttered and rattled: it whistled and shrieked and moaned.

There was no horn or loud speaker, just an earphone, so only one person could listen at a time. However, we took turns listening and everyone agreed that it was a marvelous invention.

Much has been written about the Spanish Influenza that struck Canada - and the world - in the winter 1918-1919. Schools, churches and theatres were closed; public meetings and dances were forbidden; no more than two or three persons were allowed to be in a store at one time, or congregate on the street. In fact most folks avoided contact with others and wore a piece of cheesecloth tied across their mouth and nose. The flu would strike suddenly - without warning; one day a man would be in perfect health, two days later he might be dead. Hospitals were overflowing, schoolhouses, halls, or any vacant buildings were used as nursing centers. Doctors worked night and day and anyone available was pressed into service as nurses. Men and women in the country who were not ill went from farmhouse to farmhouse, taking coal, food and medicine, and doing chores. By some miracle I escaped, but at one time Lon and all the children were in bed at the same time. They would get up, stagger around trying to help, but were so weak they soon had to lie down again. Until Lon and the boys were able

to be outside, neighbors brought groceries and helped with the chores.

Back at Killam, Dr. Duggan, rather than endanger the health of his wife and family, moved out from his house. One day, weakened by over-work and loss of sleep, unable to go on any longer, he laid down on a cot and told his helpers; "Take care of the others. Don't bother with me - I'm finished." He passed away that night and many mourned his death.

The flu epidemic of 1918-1919 killed ten times as many Americans as were killed in battle in World War I, and the death toll all around the world totaled more than 21 million - or *three* times as many lives as were lost by all sides during the entire four years of World War I.

There are no comparable statistics for Canada, but there is no doubt that the loss of life was equally high.

In the summer of 1920 Lon and our very good neighbor, R.L. Shotts, bought a small gasoline power threshing machine - an Allis Chalmers. It could thresh more grain in a day than the old horsepower machine, but the crew was smaller.

Barton and Bob drove one bundle team and Mr. Shotts the other. Lon was in charge of the machine and helped pitch bundles into the separator.

The drive with horses to Irma, to get the separator, was an all day trip, and it was dark when they reached Shott's house - to find Mrs. Shotts standing outside. We had no telephones so all she could do was wait - and hope they would not be too late. Lon hurried on home and took me back to spend the night with Mrs. Shotts. I ordered her into bed and nothing further developed during the night. The next morning, bright and early, Mr. and Mrs. Shotts started for the Mannville Hospital by horse and buggy. It was about thirty miles over rough, cross-country roads, but they made the trip safely, and when Mrs. Shotts returned home ten days later she brought with her their first daughter.

Our grain crop was good and with the new threshing machine we had the grain in the granaries early and Lon had time to do the fall plowing and other odd jobs before the cold weather set in. We all worked hard, and, although not affluent, we were beginning to reap the fruits of our labor. Lon took a load of wheat to the gristmill at Vermilion and brought back a year's supply of flour. I used the first grade for bread and the second grade for pancakes, or, mixed with the short (a by-product of flour) to make brown bread and graham gems.

Winter passed in the usual way. Because of the threshing, Barton and Bob had missed more than a month of school and were studying hard to catch up in their work. Farm children had a difficult time getting an education. There were always seemingly unavoidable circumstances that kept them out of school.

We were glad when spring came once again, but spring brought one job that no one enjoyed. Swine were the most obstinate animals living. As soon as spring arrived they started rooting under the fence; finally a fence post would be loosened so they could crawl under the wire, then away went the pigs. Not many reading this have ever tried to drive pigs back into the pen. They are too slippery to catch even when they run between your legs and knock

you down. The only way to catch a pig is to try and grab a leg and then hold fast. When they were penned they were "ringed." A hog ringer was something resembling a pair of pliers.

The clamp end held a copper half-circle ring. Someone held the pig - after our combined efforts managed to catch one - and Lon, holding it's mouth shut with one hand, snapped the ring into the gristle part of the pig's nose. For good measure he usually put in two or three rings. Perhaps that sounds cruel, but, though it did not stop their rooting it did not prevent them from eating. The whole operation, from the time the pig was caught until it was turned loose, was accompanied by head splitting squeals. I doubt that it really hurt much; there was no bleeding and I think it was no more painful than having ears pierced for wearing earrings.

In 1923 Western farmers faced economic ruin. Years of falling prices after World War I finally dropped the Alberta farm price of wheat to sixty-five cents a bushel. The speculative system of grain trading and marketing had finally come a "cropper" and the whole western economy was caught in the crash. The formation of a Wheat Pool had long been advocated by farm leaders. In October, 1923, with the encouragement of the Provincial Government, interested citizens, and farm organizations, the Alberta Wheat Pool was formed. Centralized selling through the Wheat Pool gave the grain producer a new deal and in spite of setbacks, greater security. (The establishment of the Canadian Wheat Board in 1935 added stability to this vital Canadian industry.)

After six years at Orbindale it was time to be near a high school and where there would be other advantages of a more settled region. We sold the farm to Stanton Coultman and began selling our surplus livestock.



Lymburner's Ayrshire cow "Perfect Lass".

One frosty morning in the fall of 1924 we arose about four o'clock so that Lon and the boys could get an early start with the cattle they were taking to Irma. Trucks were unheard of at that time. The cattle had to walk and could not be hurried if they were to reach the stockyards in good condition. When we opened the door, we and the house, seemed to be enveloped in a flood of colored lights, reaching from high above us right down to the

ground. Anyone who has seen the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) will never forget the spectacular sight. Usually a faint arc of light is seen in the dark northern sky during the night or before dawn.

Suddenly the arc breaks up into parallel rays of light. The colors of the rays, which are usually pale green, and yellow and red, become deeper. Sometimes these "draperies" with long streamers of light seem to cover the sky. Scientists say the arrangement of the aurora shows some relationship to the magnetic north pole and it would seem that electrically charged particles from the sun are guided to the earth by the earth's magnetic field, and the particles cause the lights. Be that as it may - never have I seen such a fantastic display as I saw that morning at Orbindale.

Early in the spring of 1925 we moved to a rented farm west of Rosalind and in 1928 bought and moved to a farm two miles south of Bawlf. While living there Lon served on the Melrose Municipal Council and I joined the United Church Country Women's Ladies Aid. The house was large but poorly constructed and the soil was poor so we sold and bought a half section north of Ohaton.

Although Lon was a grain farmer his chief interest was in Percheron horses, and his knowledge of horses was publicly recognized. Besides winning prizes at fairs, he was given the honor of judging Percheron fillies at a University of Alberta Agricultural Field Day. The government bought Feisel, one of our young stallions, for the Fort Kent Horse Club, and also bought Excell.

While living at Ohaton Lon was seriously injured by a bull and never fully recovered. With Bob's help he continued farming but suffered three strokes and died in the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton February 2nd, 1943. Funeral service was in the Camrose United Church and burial in the Camrose cemetery.

After Lon passed away Bob took over the farm and I and the younger members of the family moved to Camrose where I joined the Old Timers Association as a Charter Member. I was corresponding secretary of the United Church Missionary Society and President of the Grandmothers Group of the Ladies Aid. After moving to Edmonton in 1950 I joined the Consumers Association; the McKernan Senior Citizen's Friendship Club; and the Retired Farm Women's Group of the U.F.W.A. At this date, October, 1980, I live in my home in South Edmonton.

Lon and I were blessed with eight children. The first five Barton, Mabel, Robert, Herbert and Alice were born on the homestead at Killam. The last three, Ward, Ada and Hester were born at Orbindale.

Barton was born April 6th, 1906 and became a full time farmer. He married Violet Allen of Strome and farmed the homestead of Violet's father, Frank Allen. Their son, Allen, was born Friday April 13th, 1928 in Forestburg Hospital. Violet died May 3rd, 1928 and Allen became a part of our family and lived with us until he married Kathleen Kotow of Crossfield. Allen and Kay live in South Edmonton and have four children.

Barton married (second) Alice Breum of Forestburg. They bought and moved to a farm northeast of Forestburg. Barton was a successful grain and livestock farmer and developed a herd of high grade dual purpose



Barton Lymburner with Percheron Stallion "Albert Joe."

cattle. The cream cheques were a steady income and a radio farmer's report noted that on that day Barton Lymburner of Forestburg had the highest paid truck load of cattle delivered at the Edmonton Stock Yards. After selling the farm, stock and machinery in the spring of 1973, Barton and Alice moved to their home in Forestburg where they are active members of the Golden Age Club. Their daughter, Ardith, married Gordon DesJardin formerly of Saskatchewan. Their home is in Camrose.

Mabel was born April 22nd, 1907. She played in the Orbindale Girl's ball team. She finished high school at Rosalind and attended Camrose Normal School. She taught school at Spruce Coulee, south of Bawlf; Oak Park, north of Bawlf; Ferintosh; Alix and Ponoka. Mabel married Charles Nesbitt of Ferintosh. Their daughter, Ada, married Gordon Ashton of Ponoka. They have one daughter and one son. Charles died in 1968. Mabel retired in 1971 and now lives in Ponoka.

Robert was born January 24th, 1909. Bob lived at home to help on the farm. His chief interest outside of farming was sports, especially baseball. He played in and was manager of the Ohaton Baseball Team for several years. Bob married Jessie (Thorstad) Ryason of Bawlf, and moved to Camrose. He held a mechanic's certificate and operated the Rite Way Service Station but continued to farm the home place. Bob died of a heart seizure October 21st, 1965, at Ohaton, while working in the field. Jessie lives in Camrose.

Herbert was born February 24th, 1911, and married Julia Moller of Strome. Herbert farmed with Barton and drove a truck during the off seasons. He left the farm and made trucking a full time job.

During World War II he hauled Government supplies to Alaska and supplies to prisoner of war camps in the far north. He crossed the Peace River bridge when there were only planks to drive on and was the first, after the V.I.P.'s, to cross the bridge when it was officially opened. He bought three quarter sections of land adjoining the north and west side of Lake Isle and farmed there twelve years. He sold the farm but retained some machinery. His home is now at McKay. He does part time work for neighbors and hires someone to operate his brush cutter. Herbert and Julia had two sons. Alvin, his wife Margaret (Anderson) of Saskatchewan and their two

children, a son and daughter live in Sherwood Park. Donald married Erla Simon of Killam. They have one son. Donald owns and operates a farm at Strome but they live in Camrose where both Donald and Erla are employed.

Alice, born August 15th, 1912, started school at Orbindale and finished at Bawlf. In Camrose she was a member of the United Church Business Girls Group and of the Legion's Women's Auxiliary. She took a business course and taught in the Camrose Private Commercial College for several years and then was employed as secretary in the W.L. Knaut Law Office for five years. We moved to Edmonton where she was employed first with the Alberta Government and then with the Law Firm of Friedman, Lieberman. Alice died June 11th, 1953 of a heart attack and was buried in the Camrose cemetery.

Ward was born November 11th, 1919. He started school at Rosalind and graduated from Camrose Lutheran College. While attending college he played in and was captain of the College hockey team and was active in other sports. He enlisted in World War II as a signalman, line and wireless; and served Overseas in the Mediterranean area, Africa and Italy, and in England and other European countries. He was wounded twice but returned to duty. After he returned home he attended the University of Alberta and graduated as a Civil Engineer, and was employed by the Alberta Department of Highways. Ward married Yvonne Lewis of Lethbridge. They moved to B.C. where Ward was employed with the Provincial Government and then with the Federal Department of Highways on the Trans Continental and the Alaska Highway. He is now with the Alberta Department of Highways. Ward's and Von's home is in Edmonton. Their daughters Olwen and Denise also live in Edmonton.

Ada was born February 22nd, 1922. It was a "frosty Friday" and the superstitious midwife put a steel axehead in the bed. She said the metal would drive away pain! Needless to say it did no good nor harm; and I wouldn't have minded if she had warmed it. Ada went to school at Bawlf, Ohaton and the Camrose Lutheran College, and sang in the College choir. She complete a business course and went to Edmonton where she was employed for several years in the Department of Agriculture. Ada married Norman Lloyd Cook, a sales manager with Gulf Oil. Lloyd and Ada live in Calgary. They have two sons, Drew in Regina, Sask., and Scott at home.

Hester was born September 25th, 1923. She started school at Bawlf and graduated from Camrose High School. She took a business course and went to Edmonton where she was employed in the Provincial Government - first with the Post War Reconstruction Committee and later with the Department of Public Health. Hester and her husband Gordon Gallant, live in Port Coquitlam, B.C. Their daughter Suzette, married George Workman, formerly of Ohio. Their home is in Maple Ridge, B.C.

The trouble with telling a good story is that it reminds the other fellow of a dull one.

ROSS LYNDE

From memory of Mrs. Lockhart

Ross Lynde came to live in the Batt district from south of Viking where he had lived for many years. He bought N.W. 27-47-10-W4th just north of where the McElroys now live. He built a small one room house, a barn and dug a shallow well. Ross' only way of travel was on horseback or by buggy. He had a good saddle horse, Trooper, which he could also drive and another favorite was called "Little Horse". I remember at one time the horse ran away and Ross was nearly killed.

They were hard years even for a bachelor in those days, as crops were poor and Ross was never really a farmer. Ross was a good neighbor and through the hard years when young men were looking for work, they always found a bed and a meal with Ross, often sharing his bed and food. I know several men who stayed there all winter and it wasn't that Ross had any work for them. Some of the young fellows cut fence posts to make a few dollars, selling these to the neighbors. My girls often warned the jack rabbits not to go north or they would lose their lives.

Ross liked nothing better than to talk politics. The National Trust Company and MacKenzie King were his two main targets, and if he wrote and told MacKenzie King what he said he did, they surely must have missed his letters after Ross died.

Ross spent many hours playing his violin. He also played the accordin and the guitar. Although I never heard him play the accordin or guitar, he surely played softly and sweetly on the violin. He had a great love for cats and had many of them around his home.

Ross had one brother who lived at Kimberly, B.C. and during the summer his two children used to come and stay with Ross. It was quite a change for the children who were used to electricity, running water etc. and to be in a bachelor's place where they had none of these conveniences, not even a screen door. Our kids used to play many tricks on Ross but he always enjoyed a good laugh.

Ross lived on the farm till he took sick in 1960 and died of cancer within the year.



Bill Lockhart and Ross Lynde.

HARRY LYSTER FAMILY

Henry (Harry) Lyster was born in Ontario in 1880. He came to Alberta and homesteaded S.E. 24-40-19-W4th in the Diamond Willow district in 1906. In 1913 he married Helen McCarty and they lived on the homestead until 1919. During this time two sons Clarence and Verle were born to them.

In the spring of 1919, lured by the open range land at Irma, they bought land in an unincorporated district and moved to the N.W. 4-47-9-W4th, about ten miles northwest of Irma. In 1924 Jessie and Herbert Lyster, niece and nephew of Harry and Helen, came to make their home with them. For two years the children attended Ross school which necessitated a drive of several miles.

When Jessie and Clarence were ready for grade nine, the Lyster family moved to Bashaw so the children could attend high school. At this time Herbert went to live with another uncle. While at Bashaw Harry operated a light plant.

After living in Bashaw for three years, when Jessie and Clarence had finished grade eleven, Calgary Power bought the light plant so the Lysters returned to their farm at Irma. Jessie went to Normal School and Clarence took several grade twelve subjects at home.

understand that a cellophane sack filled with vitamin pills was removed from the Health Nurses' car recently under the mistaken belief that it was a sack of jelly beans. If the vitamin pills are all they are supposed to be, it shouldn't take Sherlock Holmes to solve the mystery - just look for the youngster who is brim full of surplus energy, providing he continued to believe they were jelly beans and ate them all.



Jasper and Jenny Shippy feeding cows.



Harry Lyster house being moved by J.M. Holt in 1939. Gordon and Mabel Holt lived in this house.



Elmer Erickson sleigh riding with the kids.

Lysters traded their land at Irma to Charlie Holt for a farm in the Leahurst district. Harry passed away in 1938. Mrs. Lyster and son Verle carried on with the farm.

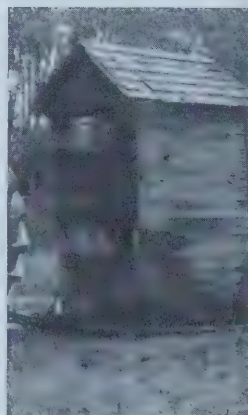
Jessie taught school for two years and then married William Willoughby and went to live in Crowsnest Pass. They have three sons and three daughters.

Clarence joined the R.C.A.F. as an instructor. After his discharge he attended the University of Toronto and now works on the National Research Council. He married Olive Little in 1954 and they have no family.

In 1946 Verle married Evelyn Stiller and they have two children. They continue to farm.

Helen Lyster retired to California, but makes a visit to Stettler every summer.

September 30, 1949 - A case of mistaken identity - We



First outhouse built by J. Barss Sr., hued out of poplar logs.



Irene Hardy holding Tom and Bill. Joe Hardy holding Bright and Buck.



Early 1920's - Jack Dalton's barn built by James Craig.



Lottie Greenwood and her tame coyote.



Two-headed calf born at Gordon Fischer farm.



Earl and Marguerite Burr going home after sawing wood at Ralph Mark's.

J. A. MacDonald Family

by Mildred MacDonald Neufeld

Not being a pioneer myself, I shall have to write the earliest part of this history from stories told to me by my parents. My father was a Scotsman, born in Nova Scotia - and led a rather adventuresome life before homesteading in Alberta. Prior to coming to Alberta he had been a cowboy in Montana at the time when the sheep ranchers were trying to move in - and were met by opposition from the cattle ranchers. I used to love to listen to him tell of those days. One story that comes to mind is, once when the cook from a sheep outfit tried to cross a river in a row boat loaded with provisions, the cowboys shot the boat full of holes, so it sank, and the cook had to swim to shore.

My mother was a teacher from Manitoba and was teaching in the Silver Lane school when she met Dad. Dad had been living with another man called Frank Rae in a log house on the homestead. They were married in 1914 and in 1920 moved a mile east and built a new set of buildings. The house was completed in October and I had been born in August in a granary which was their temporary home that summer.

My early memories of life on the farm were very happy - we didn't have other children to play with much, so we often improvised our own games. Glenholm school was almost four miles away and since I was considered a small "sickly" child, my parents thought I was not able to go so far to school. Mom taught us at home until I was eight and in Grade Three - when they bought a small house in town and we attended the Irma school in the winter and Glenholm in the spring and fall. I hated changing schools so often - twice a year - but had to put up with it.

It was still a problem getting us to school in the country. The neighbor children used to ride by every day, but I could never learn to ride properly. When the horse's back was going up I was invariably coming down and vice versa.

Dad bought a buckskin Indian pony called Teddy and he had full control of the situation at all times. Dad made a homemade cart from a car axle and wheels and a wagon seat but it was terribly rough.

I remember about 1926 I think my parents bought the quarter east of us on Section 5 and I remember someone coming with a big tractor with steel wheels and ploughing the brush down. There is an interesting story about that quarter - on the northwest corner we could see mounds of different sizes all made in the same direction. On taking the surface off the largest one we found a solid layer of rocks with a big one at each end. It was undoubtedly a cemetery. My mother wrote to Edmonton - I don't know just where - and they replied just to leave it undisturbed so Dad never ploughed over that corner. We thought it was an Indian cemetery but now I'm not so sure. I've learned since that the Indians put their dead in trees. Anyway I would love to know the story behind it. There were about fifteen graves.

The highlight of the early years was always "threshing time". We loved the excitement of the noisy machinery - the threshing crew and all the extra goodies baked and



J.A. MacDonald at wheel of center car, his wife sitting behind, taken at a picnic in Irma about 1918. Other persons unknown. Note cars.

lunches taken to the field twice a day. The men would sleep in the hay loft. Sometimes at bedtime I remember them singing and yodelling. After we got old enough to help with the work it wasn't quite so much fun but I still enjoyed it. How farming has changed! I sometimes think if Dad could see the farms now he would be lost. Rock picking was a sort of picnic day as we took our lunch and worked all day picking rocks and unloading them by the fences. I should say my parents worked while we played. Poisoning gophers was another day of hiking over the fields putting poisoned wheat at each gopher hole. Burning the old strawpiles was always a lot of fun too. I used to love to ride on the seeder or the binder with my dad.

In winter I remember going to card parties at various neighbor's once a week. We would sit in the sleigh - covered with quilts and an old fur robe with our feet on a "foot-warmer" filled with coals from the stove just before setting out.

The squeak of the runners on the snow and the bright stars had a magic all its own. I also remember when the road to town was a two-rutted winding trail over the prairie until it reached the main road and turned north. The coulee always seemed so pretty - especially when the wild lilies were in bloom.

Another early memory is of our first radio. I think it was about 1926 but I might be wrong there. It had a beautifully curved black horn - so I thought - and we heard as many squawks and squeals as we did program but we didn't mind that. We used to listen to the children's programs "Farmer" and the children's songs - "Tin Pan Parade" and "The Runaway Train". It was a big improvement over the windup gramophone where we had to change needles every few records.

Dad always had young men to help him - many couldn't speak English at first but they all learned quickly. One young Polish man also wanted to learn to read and write - so every evening he was a willing pupil of my sister and me. We loved the opportunity to teach an adult so by the time he left our place he had mastered reading and writing.

Every July 12th - Orangeman's day - we went to the

picnic in Irma. It was so exciting and thrilling to me. First the parade with a man on a white horse leading. I had no idea what it signified - I just knew it was the start of an afternoon of fun. The school picnics at Glenholm were fun too. I remember a Christmas concert there before we started to school and hearing "Jingle Bells" for the first time. If there was a Christmas tree I don't remember it because the first tree I remember was in 1928 at the United Church. That Christmas was a whole new experience to me. We always had Christmas at home and wrote our letters to Santa but nothing like this. In the Sunday School concert we all wore white tissue paper dresses trimmed with tinsel and sang "Away in a Manger" to a tune I have never heard since. The Christmas tree, I thought, was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen, and when we lined up to go up and get our gift from Santa I had a close look at the tree. I'll never forget the feeling of happy excitement as I looked at it.

Another early memory is being at a party at someone's house and Dad calling a square dance. Dad was good at "soft shoe" dancing and I can remember him sometimes dancing all around the house. His arthritis put an end to that.

Early memories were not all pleasant ones, our medical care - especially dentistry left something to be desired. Toothaches were always a problem - our first extractions were done by an old doctor in Irma. I can't remember his name but he pulled our teeth without any freezing. It was a terrifying experience - once my sister made a dash for freedom and I immediately followed, but in a different direction. However we were both captured and led back to our unhappy fate. He broke one of my teeth and left the root in so later we went to Wainwright to the dentist. My many bouts with chest problems resulted in me often having to endure a mustard plaster stuck on whatever part of the chest was painful. I'm sure I must have swallowed gallons of vile tasting cough medicine and tonic during those years. Many of the bottles were the same size and shape and once Mom gave me what she thought was my usual spoonful of cough medicine. Only when I started to scream did she realize it was Lysol. A young man who was helping dad knew what to do and took charge of the situation. His quick thinking saved my life so we owed him a debt of gratitude. His name was Bill Dootson.

There was always talk that I needed my enlarged tonsils removed. This terrifying threat hung over my head for quite a few years so I would never mention my sore throats. I can't remember what year but once there was a clinic held in Kiefer's Hall. My parents and I went in there but to my relief they decided against having mine out. I remember the cots lining the walls and the stage curtained off for the operating room and the horrible smell - ether I suppose. In 1928 we contacted measles - that meant quarantine for two weeks. My sister got measles first and two weeks later I did. That meant a month out of school which suited us fine. One thing I remember about it was that Mr. Charter would bring milk and pour it into a container outside the door. When we were finally over it, the house had to be fumigated. It was a lot of wasted effort when you think that the contagious period is before the spots appear - but the



This is the Jim MacDonald barn built about 1910. He is standing in front of it with his stallion called Thistle.

public health authorities were trying - and they have come a long way. Another painful memory is of having iodine daubed on every cut or scratch. I think my dad firmly believed the more it hurt the more good it was doing.

When I was small, nothing could surpass the trips to town in the "democrat" behind a team of horses for sheer fun and excitement. First we always went to the post office - the boxes were pigeon holes behind a sheet of glass so we could always see if there was any mail before we went to the wicket. The Winnipeg Free Press was always there with the comics Little Orphan Annie and her many adventures, Smitty, Mutt and Jeff and the Katzenjammer kids. We tried to copy their antics with our hired girls but that's another story. The post office had a nice long bench under the window. Twice a year we got Eaton's catalogue - full of wonderful things. I can remember the sets of harness they showed - always on big white horses.

A special treat was to go into the cafe for ice cream. I never see old wire backed chairs without remembering the delicious flavor of that ice cream. Johnson's store was always stocked with such a variety of goods. I remember the containers of beans etc. with glass tops. The candies were behind glass too and a nickel would buy a good sized bag full. I always remember going to the creamery and the livery stable. We were on the farm the night of the fire and it made the phone ring for a long time.

As I said earlier we often improvised our own games and amusements. Once when we were going to school in Irma, Mom became ill and had to be hospitalized in Hardisty for about a week. Dad took us out of school and out to the farm with him. He thought he was doing his duty by giving us some arithmetic problems every day. My sister got hold of a detective magazine which contained a ransom letter in one of the stories. She always had a flair for writing so she wrote a much more bloodthirsty letter, disguising her handwriting, addressed it to a neighbor girl, put it in an envelope which I had made, and then carried it up the road a bit and left it for

her to find on her way to school. We forgot all about it for a few days until a policeman drove into the yard and in a matter of minutes had wrung a confession from my sister. Dad couldn't believe his ears. The girl's father had taken it seriously and notified the police. They recognized it as a child's prank and had gone to Glenholm school for handwriting samples. When none matched up he came to our place. Needless to say this didn't aid Mom's recovery and Dad made us do more of those wretched arithmetic problems. I might add that the policeman said they couldn't tell if the envelope was homemade or not - so I feel that in my one and only brush with the law I didn't do too badly.

Grade eight - 1933-34 was the only year we didn't change schools - and it was the happiest school year of them all. I had such a crush on our handsome young teacher Mr. Martin. Our other activities included Junior choir - under Miss Yorke's leadership and C.G.I.T. - Marjorie Locke was our leader - I can't remember her married name. I was glad when our twin daughters joined C.G.I.T. here - they enjoyed it. I now have grandchildren in our junior choir - they wear gowns just like we used to.

We left Irma after that year and went to Vancouver. I dislike any city so was glad to leave it when I got married. For almost thirty-five years our home has been on beautiful Vancouver Island - in the country of course. We have a lovely family of six and to date ten grandchildren. They all live nearby except our oldest son and he lives near Vancouver, so that is not too far. Life has been very good to me but nothing can replace those happy early childhood memories.

THE JAMES L. MacDUFF FAMILY

by Marjory (Matthews) MacDuff

James MacDuff was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia July 17, 1936 to Leslie Coles MacDuff and Rhoda Bernice (MacDonald) MacDuff. He was the oldest of four boys; his younger brothers being Rodney, Robert and David.

Until Jim was seven years old he lived on a farm near Mineville, Nova Scotia where his dad did a bit of farming. Most of his time was spent working in the lumber mill and logging business he owned and which he later sold. Jim attended the one room school there for a year until his parents moved to Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. When Jim was seven the family moved to Kitchener, Ontario, where Jim's father worked as a machinist in the Dominion Rubber Factory. They have many happy memories of the six years spent there.

In an attempt to procure a better job Jim's father answered an ad for a machinist shop foreman for the British American Oil Company in Edmonton. He was accepted. In 1950 his family moved to Clover Bar just out of Edmonton. However on arrival he learned that due to delays the plant would not be opening for about a year.

They lived in Clover Bar for several months during which time Mr. Leslie MacDuff bought into the machine shop in Irma.

During the eight years they lived in Irma, Jim graduated from high school. In 1958 the MacDuffs moved to Port Moody, B.C.

Jim was employed by Burroughs Business Machines in

February 1959. Five years later he was moved to Victoria, B.C. During the seventeen years Jim worked for Burroughs he became one of their top computer technicians in Canada.

Even though doing very well, he often talked of having his own plumbing business. Plumbing had been the line of work his father had gone into in Vancouver. All four sons had worked for him.

Rodney had his own plumbing business and David had his. In 1976 Jim started his own plumbing business in Victoria.

Even though very busy Jim's inventive mind had to have something to work on. During the last five years he has designed, patented and obtained Canadian Standards Approval on six different models of built-in vacuums, which he now manufactures and distributes.

Marjory (Matthews) MacDuff was born August 18, 1939 to John William (Bell) Matthews and Gertrude May (Smith) Matthews. Marjory was born in Mannville, Alberta. Marjory and her younger sister Carol spent the early years of their lives on a farm fourteen miles north of Irma. Her first eight years of schooling were at the one room rural Albert School. In the fall of 1953 her parents retired from the farm and moved into Irma.

After graduating from Irma High School in 1957 Marjory worked in the Wainwright Municipal Hospital until entering nurses training at the University of Alberta Hospital in January of 1958. She continued to work there after receiving her R.N. until August of 1961. Following her marriage and move to Victoria Marjory has continued her nursing career. For twenty-five years she has worked in the large psychiatric pavilion of the Royal Jubilee Hospital, where she is the night supervisor. This is a position she has had for a number of years.

Jim MacDuff and Marjory Matthews were married in Irma on August 26, 1961. They made their home in Victoria where they still reside. They have five children, three daughters, Patricia, Deanna, and Anne; and twin boys Matthew and Malcolm.



Jimmy and Marjory MacDuff.



Patty, Anne, Deanna and twins - Matthew and Malcom.

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT MacFARLANE

by Harriet Faulkner

Mr. Robert MacFarlane came to Canada from Scotland in June, 1907 and homesteaded on the S.W. 20-48-10-W4th which was later part of the Rodino district. Mrs. MacFarlane came in 1908 after a house had been built. There were two in the family, Harriet and Bill.

A Post Office was opened later in Mr. Clay's home, which was the S.E. 20-48-10-W4th. Mr. Clay went to Minburn every Saturday for the mail. Mr. Clay moved two miles south, and the Post Office was moved to MacFarlane's house, and was there until it was closed in 1937. Mr. MacFarlane passed away in December, 1951, and Mrs. MacFarlane in March, 1957.

After this, Bill sold the land to Abbie Winfield which is now part of Mixburn Colony.

Bill worked at Two Hills Community Pasture and later at Buck Lake. He passed away in the W.W. Cross Hospital in November, 1978.

Harriet married Debs Faulkner in October, 1935. They had three daughters. Dorothy, who married Stan White of Ranfurly, had a family of four: Brian who is married to Marilyn McIntosh, Betty, Brenda and Barbara.

Jean, who married Phil Hogg, lives south of Kinsella and has a family of four: Keith, Melva, Pat and Darlene. Gladys who is married to Lee Davis, has a family of three: Leeanne, Cody and Zane.

Debs passed away on December 29th, 1976 and is buried in Minburn cemetery.

DONALD MACKAY FAMILY

I was born June 29, 1932, on our farm five and one-half miles south of Irma, where I lived until I completed grade nine. Schooling was at Glenholm, a one-room school two miles north of our farm. I'm the fifth child and second son born to John and Jean MacKay.

After leaving school I worked for farmers in the

community and spent part of two winters working at a sawmill near Edson. In the summer of 1953 I started working for Farm Electric Services Ltd. helping to install power to the farms in the Irma area.

At time of writing I'm crew foreman for Transalta Utilities at Wetaskiwin. During the thirty years with the power company we've worked in most of the areas served by Transalta Utilities from Hinton, Barrhead and Lac La Biche to Provost, Rimbey, Red Deer and south to Vauxhall, Taber and Picture Butte.

In 1955 I married Evva Chiles. Evva was born and raised in the Rimbey area, took her schooling at Woodale and Rimbey.

After moving often with the crew we lived at Leduc from 1962-1965, at Camrose 1965-1967 then moved to Wetaskiwin where we still reside. We have four children, Mary Lou, married to Dennis Dickau, lives on a dairy farm west of Wetaskiwin. They have five children, Jody, Kerri, Kimberly, Dan and Kevin. Kenneth, single, member of the Edmonton City Police Force lives in Edmonton. He is active in curling and ball. Barbara, married to Trevor Beck, formerly from Grantham, England. Trevor is presently employed with Dowell of Canada and works at Nisku. They have two girls Melanie and Rachel and live in Wetaskiwin. Douglas is single, teaching in Camrose. He is active in sports, mostly volleyball and basketball.



Donald McKay Family: Lou, Evva, Don, Barb. Front Row: Doug and Ken.

JOHN MACKAY FAMILY

by Mrs. Lil (MacKay) Glasgow

John and Jean MacKay came to Canada from Scotland on June 15, 1927. They travelled on the ocean liner Athenia, to Quebec and by train the remainder of the trip. With them was almost three year old Nan and fifteen month old Betty. Although they spent their first winter with Dan Larson, they initially were taken by a soldier settlement man to their own two-room house five and one-half miles southwest of Irma. One of their first impressions was of the mosquitoes! The grass was high and harboured swarms of them. With no screens on the door or windows and of course no mosquito repellent, they were really at the insects mercy. They learned from the neighbours to light smudges which provided some relief for people and animals alike.

There were many other things to get used to such as the coyotes howling which had them puzzled at first. The quarter of land that they lived on was purchased for fourteen dollars an acre and had seventeen acres broken. Other breaking was done with a Sulky plow pulled by horses, of course. In those days roots were chopped around with an axe and then pulled out by horse - hard work for a man who had come to Canada in search of a drier climate which might be better for his health. Dad had suffered from two bouts of rheumatic fever in Scotland and had a very enlarged heart. He was unable to work the long, hard hours and had to spend one winter in bed trying to recuperate. Mom coped with chores etc. as best she could.

They got cows shortly after arrival so they would have milk for the children. Mom made their own butter. Milk and butter were kept in the cellar to keep cool. Staple diet in those days was eggs, potatoes and dairy products.

There weren't many fences then so other animals would sometimes come close by the house. Gophers would come up on the step and if the door was open would even venture into the house.

With the abundance of tall prairie grass and not much

land broken one of the concerns of those days was prairie fires. If they occurred they had to be fought with plows, shovels and sacks etc.

The MacKay's had five more children - Nellie, Jack, Don, Joan and Lily. A bachelor's shack was added to the two-room house. It provided more room but also more work in the form of tracking down bedbugs!

John had been Highland champion on the accordian and this musical talent along with his ability on the violin



MacKay Family: Nan, Betty, Nell, Jack, Don, Joan, and Lil.

enhanced many evenings. Neighbours, Vernon Peterson and Frank Withall would often join him with their violins and the little house swelled with the melodies. Sometimes the only light to play by was the light of the flame in the wood stove with the lid off.

The children attended school at Glenholm which was two miles north across country. We walked in summer and skied in winter. The skis were usually homemade by dad - smooth boards carefully shaped and curved at the front tip, with a leather strap across the toe and an old rubber sole tacked where the foot went to give some grip. Dad also sewed many of our clothes, either made over from some one larger or made new from patterns. He resoled and mended shoes. Mom was kept busy knitting especially toques and mittens which for some reason mysteriously disappeared en route to or from school. Mom's eyes were very poor and she often needed a magnifying glass to read. She often knit with her eyes closed.

Long, cold trips to school necessitated the wearing of long underwear and felt socks with rubbers on our feet. It was such a joy in spring to shed those things.

Christmas concerts were the highlight of the winter. After weeks of practising and preparation the big day would come. A small stage would have been erected at the front of the school where carefully practised recitations, plays, and musical numbers were performed. Mom sometimes frizzed the girls' hair with a knitting needle heated in a lamp chimney. The trip to the concert



John and Jean MacKay with little Nan and Betty.

was made by horse and sleigh - often with warm bricks at our feet to keep us warm. One year the trip home was interrupted by the realization that the head count didn't tally. On returning to the school the missing youngster (Nell) was found sleeping in a corner, blissfully unaware that she had been left behind.

There was excitement each season when the new multi-purpose mail order catalogues arrived. They provided hours of entertaining "window-shopping". The old ones could then become cutout books of paper dolls, and of course their final demise was in the "outhouse".

The "outhouse" was sometimes a place to retreat especially when it was time to do the dishes or feed the chickens. Due to the close proximity to the woodpile, quiet reveries could be interrupted by the resounding impact of a block of wood.

Dad got pneumonia in March, 1941. His brother Bill took him by sleigh the five and one-half miles to Irma from where Dr. Greenburg took him to Wainwright to the hospital. He did not recover. At the young age of thirty-seven, Mom was left a widow with seven children aged four to sixteen years. She rented the farm first to Leonard Peterson and later to Earl Blanchard. She married Frank Withall in 1943.

JOHN G. (JACK) MacKAY FAMILY

On September 2nd, 1956 I married Irene Younker and we spent our honeymoon harvesting on the Harold Morse farm, which we were renting at the time. The Harvey McLeods now live on this farm. On November 20th, 1958 we moved to our present location on the S.W. 6-45-9 which was previously owned by Peter Nilson. We will always be thankful for the helpful neighbors we have had, especially during our first years.

We started our family on January 6th, 1959 when Garnet Charles was born. Next came Mervin John, February 21st, 1960; Kevin Dean, August 23rd, 1961; Dwight Earl, February 7th, 1963; Shelley Lauren, May

22nd, 1965; Trevor Allan, May 19th, 1966; Diane Lillian and Debbie Jean (twins), June 1st, 1967 and Gregory Niel, August 2nd, 1971. Our family has been blessed with good health and with so many healthy people comes lots of activities.

Our family has been involved in sports such as hockey, ringette, fastball and football. When they were younger it required a considerable amount of time and driving to have everyone to the proper place to play hockey. Things like chores had to be worked around the hockey and ball schedules. We can be thankful that the price of gas was not as high then as it is now.

Along with all the laughter and fun of a large family, there are a few disadvantages. For example, running eleven people through one bathroom on Sunday morning and still making it to church on time. Another disadvantage is getting sick, as when seven of the kids had the mumps at one time. As the children became older, there became another problem, not enough "wheels" to go around.

Our family is growing up fast. Garnet is working for Merland Explorations Ltd. checking gas and oil wells. On October 10th, 1981 he married Susan Creasy and on December 20th, 1983 blessed us with our second grandson, Christopher Garnet.

On November 10th, 1979 Mervin married Paralee Holt and on March 11th, 1983 blessed us with our first grandson, Darryl John. Mervin is farming the Alex Smallwood farm and this past summer he purchased a herd of milk cows, which he is milking at our place.

Kevin and Dwight are living at home and farming some of T.R. Copeland's land, which they have rented. During the winters they work out. This winter Kevin is working for Lakeland Insulation and Dwight is working for Erling Nilson, doing carpentry work. Last year Shelley graduated from grade twelve in Irma and is presently attending Bible School at the Living Faith Renewal Centre in Caroline.

Trevor is in grade twelve this year. The twins, Debbie and Diane are in grade eleven and Greg is in grade seven.

The MacKay family, winners of the 1982 Slow Pitch Tournament at Irma Daze, July 31st, 1982. Back Row, Left to Right: Paralee, Mervin, Irene, Jack, Garnet, Susan. Front Row: Dwight, Trevor, Debbie, Greg, Diane, Shelley, Kevin.



With six of the children still living at home, we are still kept very busy.

In the summer of 1982 we entered a family team in the Irma Daze Slow Pitch Tournament and much to our surprise, we won the "A" event. We had a great time playing ball and it was really nice to be able to compete as a family.

We are thankful for the many people our family has been privileged to meet and work with in the different activities and clubs during the years. God Bless You All!

MacKAY, MERVIN

I was born in Viking Hospital on February 21, 1960, the second son of John G. (Jack) and Irene MacKay of Irma. I spent my early years on the farm south of Irma, growing up with my five brothers and three sisters. I remember the many hours we spent skating on the outdoor rink that Dad made us. We'd hurry off the bus, change into our hockey equipment, play shinny until 5:00 p.m., milk the cows, do the chores, gobble down our supper, turn on the yard light, and go back out on the ice to play hockey until bedtime. In the summer when we couldn't have ice, we'd use the loft of the barn as our arena. What great fun the nine of us had!

I really enjoyed my sports, and when in grade twelve, my special project was helping Miss Moore teach Phys. Ed. In 1974 I was the captain of the Irma Bantam 'C' hockey team that won the provincials, and at the age of sixteen, I was pitching for the Irma Tigers. During the winters of 1978-79 and 1979-80, I played hockey for the Wainwright Junior 'B' Bisons, and for the Irma Aces in 1980-81, but have now retired to playing Rec Hockey for the Irma North Stars. In 1978, I was one of the pitchers on the Irma Midget fastball team that won the Alberta



Mervin, Paralee and Darryl MacKay, 1983.

Summer games, and then pitched for the Irma Juniors until I was twenty-one. In 1980 the Ellerslie team won the Alberta Junior Championship, and asked Leonard Parsons and me to join them in Toronto for the playoffs. This was a great experience and there were some super ball teams in Toronto. At present, I am still pitching for the Irma Tigers.

After graduating from High school in Irma, I went to work for Gillis construction in the oil patch north of Irma, until February of 1979, when I started running Cat for Whitehorse construction. In March of 1979, I purchased a portion of the Alex Smallwood farm, rented the remainder, and took up farming with my dad. During the spring of 1979, I took flying lessons and in the summer of '79 I received my Private Pilot's License, and in the winter of '81 I added my night endorsement.

On November 10, 1979, I married Paralee Anne Holt.

Paralee was born March 5, 1960 in Viking Hospital, the oldest child of Betty and Clifton Holt. Paralee attended school in Irma, and was active in sports, as I was. She played volleyball, figure skated, and curled. In 1977, Paralee, along with Brent and Greg Fischer, and Wendy Holt (Burr) won the mixed curling zones and competed in Strathmore for the Provincials where they came in fourth. Paralee was also active in the school band, and the Student's Union. After completing High School in Irma, Paralee attended Lakeland College in Vermilion where she received a certificate in Business Administration, passing with honors. She then went to work for Creasy Agencies in Irma, until December of 1979 when she went to work for Merland Explorations until February of 1983. On March 11, 1983, our son Daryl John was born at the Viking Hospital. We still enjoy our sports and have enjoyed mixed curling in the new curling rink in Irma. Paralee also curls with the ladies, and I play hockey and fastball.

Recently we purchased twenty-five milk cows and are milking with my dad at his place. We are also grain farming with my brothers, Kevin and Dwight.

ANGUS MacMILLAN

by Orril Darling

Angus MacMillan was the oldest son of Donald and Harriett MacMillan of Alexandria, Ontario, and one of the first homesteaders in what later became the Alma Mater District. He came to the district with his father in 1907 and homesteaded the northeast quarter 12-46-9. His father, Mr. Donald MacMillan, then 70 years old homesteaded the southwest quarter 30-46-8. He built a shack on it and lived there mostly in the summers until he got his patent and then returned to Ontario where he lived until he was a hundred years old. George Fischer recalls stopping in at Mr. MacMillan's shack on the way home from church at Elliotts and being given maple sugar. Mrs. A.A. Fischer remembers Mr. MacMillan walking from his place to Angus' and likely to Fischers. Angus put up a 12' x 16' tar paper and sod shack on his homestead. George Fischer remembers being in it too.

The early homesteaders worked together and Angus and A.A. Fischer worked together a great deal as they farmed side by side. Angus spent a great deal of time at

Fischer's and was like one of the family having many meals there. He was very fond of children and was a special favorite of George and Orril. One time he took George to Irma with him when George was less than a year old. When asked by someone in town how old the baby was he made a wild guess not admitting the child wasn't his. On the return to Fischer's he asked Mrs. Fischer how old George was and confided the incident to her.

For the first few winters Angus returned to his home in Ontario and Mrs. Fischer always packed a lunch for his trip on the train. This lunch usually included oatmeal cookies with date filling of which Angus was very fond. In later years Angus, before his marriage, nearly always spent Christmas and New Year with the Johnstone and Fischer families as one of them. He often acted as Santa Claus for the younger members.

For many years there was no line fence between the Fischer and Angus MacMillan homesteads - just a strip of sod between the two places. A well travelled trail crossed the fields between the two places. In the early days Angus had a dog named Sport very devoted to him and Fischers had a dog named Carlo. The two were mortal enemies always fighting if by chance one trespassed on the other's property. Often when the men were working the adjacent fields accompanied by their dogs, the dogs would race back and forth on either side of the line challenging one another but never crossing the sod strip. Who could say that even so-called ordinary dogs weren't clever. A line fence was eventually built to accommodate pasturing stock on one side of the line and growing crop on the other but a gate was put in it.

Angus had a new frame two-story house 12' X 18' built about 1911 or 1912. Much of the lumber he brought from



House of Angus MacMillan, built on his homestead. In front: Neil MacMillan, Angus MacMillan, dog Sport.

Ontario and the main floor downstairs was laid with 1 1/8 inch maple flooring with enough left to lay more floor the same size. The house was built by Mr. G.A. Walker (homesteader) who built the sides and bolted them to the ends so they could later be taken apart to enlarge the house. This was never done.

Angus married Margaret Ross from Maxville, Ontario whom he had known for many years as the MacMillan and Ross families had been neighbors in Alexandria before the Ross family moved to Maxville. Margaret Ross came by train from her home to Wainwright where Angus met her and where they were married. This brings up another story of his dog's loyalty to him. Angus went by train from Irma and as the dog followed him to Irma, he insisted on getting on the train with him. Angus had to get off the train and get someone to take care of Sport while he got safely aboard and away.

Angus and his wife both worked very hard milking cows and raising pigs and chickens as well as crops. They both welcomed visitors and were helpful and hospitable neighbors. Both were fond of children and it was a treat for the Fischer children to visit them, especially Orril who remembers maple sugar seemed always forthcoming to eat at once as well as some to take home. Angus had prior to his marriage, I believe, given Orril a red and white heifer calf. This heifer later took a prize at the Irma Fair.

Angus had a team of black horses, a set of driving harness and a democrat. These were often used at funerals and neighbors often borrowed the democrat and harness.

Angus and his wife continued to be hard workers and kind neighbors though saddened by the loss, at birth, of their son and only child. They acquired the southeast quarter of section thirteen to add to the homestead as well, I believe, working the senior MacMillan's home-



Angus MacMillan, early homesteader in the Alma Mater district.

stead. This homestead still being in the MacMillan family.

In the fall of 1923 Angus contracted pneumonia after getting his feet wet when driving cattle to Irma for sale. He went back to help thresh without changing to dry footwear with the resulting sickness. He was taken to hospital in Edmonton where he passed away. This was a very sad time for Mrs. MacMillan as her father, Mr. Ross, who had come from Ontario to visit took sick and passed away at nearly the same time as Angus. She hadn't been able to leave her father to go to Edmonton to see Angus before he passed away. Angus was buried in the Irma cemetery beside his infant son. After affairs were set in order, Mrs. MacMillan returned to Maxville to keep house for her bachelor brother and where many years later she passed on.

THE MALCOLM MacMILLAN STORY

by Annetta Maguire

Donald and Harriett MacMillan of Alexandria, Ontario, had four sons and two daughters. They were Tena, Mamie, Angus, Neil, John D, and Malcolm.

Angus and his father came west first in 1907, Angus homesteading N.E. 12-46-9 and his father S.W. 30-46-8. Angus built a 12' x 16' tar paper and sod shack and his father a shack on his homestead. A few months later Neil joined his father and brother.

In September of 1910 Mac arrived by train the first year the train passed through Irma. At the time Don McCready was station agent and a boxcar was used as a station. Angus met Mac and they walked seven miles through trails and over hills to the homestead.

During this early time Mac worked for John McNaughton driving two oxen and a horse with which he harrowed. The horse was a crazy headed saddle horse and when the wire whip, to keep the oxen moving, was swung, the horse became very unsettled and was lathered with sweat. Mac made a goad of a willow rod with a nail driven through the end with which he prodded the oxen and which did not disturb the horse. He didn't know if John McNaughton ever knew of this method that he used. Another time he stooked four days for Grover Arnold and was given ten dollars. Mac was amazed that



Irma Tweedy and Annetta MacMillan.

Grover didn't want any change. In the autumn of 1910 or 1911 Mac cut brush for the Armstrongs who homesteaded where Renwicks later lived. Mrs. Armstrong persuaded Mac to stay for supper before going home to his father's shack. Soon after he started out, axe in hand, it became very stormy. He kept his direction following the fence until he came to the end of Toll's fence which was the last one. The footing became difficult and finally he stumbled and fell and when he regained his feet he had lost all sense of direction. Standing still and wondering which way to go he heard the clink of trace chains and the squeak of a sleigh. Going toward the sound he came upon a sleigh and team driven by Bill Matthews who homesteaded near Grover Arnold's. The visibility by this time was nil so they continued on to Mr. MacMillan's where they managed to put the team away without water in the barn full of sheaves. After spending the night and waking to a clear bright morning Bill Matthews continued on home. But for this chance encounter in the storm Mac would never have been able to make it home. The first year Mac was in Alberta it was quite mild until after Christmas. Jim Elliott took a sleigh load of people to Lew Hardy's for a Christmas party.

Mac filed on a homestead N.W. 30-46-7, in what later became the Passchendale District. He did not have to build a dwelling on it as he could live with his father. A son could live with a father but a father could not live with a son was the rule for homesteaders.

Several times Mac went to Edmonton looking for work to earn much needed cash like many other homesteaders did. He became acquainted with and made friends with a fellow worker, Bill Fraser, who took Mac to the family home in Edmonton. Here he met Margaret Fraser, Bill's



Mr. Donald McMillan Senior on his homestead in 1908, SW-30-46-8-W4.

sister, who was to become his wife.

Margaret Fraser as a young woman had come with her family to Edmonton in 1912 from Dunvegan, Ontario. She was employed for a while by the Hudson Bay. She left this employment to stay home to help look after her mother, who was not well and to help keep house. On April 2, 1919 she married Malcolm MacMillan and with him took up residence on a farm near Vegreville.

They remained in the Vegreville area near Warwick until the spring of 1924. The MacMillans were about to purchase land near Warwick when they received word of the death of Mac's brother, Angus. It was arranged for them to move with their two children Annetta and Neil to the Alma Mater District to take over the Angus homestead and other land. Here the couple worked hard and eventually acquired the north half of 13-46-9, the north half of 7-46-8 and the southeast quarter of 7-46-8. They became active and valuable community and district members. Mrs. MacMillan was an active member of the Alma Mater and Roseberry Ladies Aid and the Irma Women's Institute. Annetta and Neil attended Alma Mater Elementary School and the Irma High School.



Mac McMillan and Jim Elliott.



Mac and Margaret McMillan and Aubrey and Alice Fischer at Fischer's Fiftieth Anniversary.



Margaret and Mac MacMillan in 1981.

In 1938 Mac had a new home constructed by A.E. Simmons built on the homestead and which they enjoyed living in for a number of years.

In 1939 Annetta married Bob Maguire of Irma. They have two sons living, Greg and Garth. Robert Dwight passed away in 1945. Greg married Sharon Bodnar and they live in Calgary. Garth married Janis Le Blond of Vernon where they reside. They have a daughter Leah Kathleen.

Annetta's brother, Neil, married Ruby Carrington of Irma and took over the family farm when Mac and Margaret retired to Edmonton in 1947.

Ruby and Neil had three daughters and a son, Elaine, Cheryl, Karen and Blaine. The girls are married and Blaine is still at home with his mother and attends Lakeland College.

Elaine married Lorne Vopni and they are now living in Dallas, Texas with their three sons, Scott, Bradley and Jason.

Cheryl married Doug Bell and they are living in Edmonton with their two boys, Craig and Christopher and daughter Erin.

Karen married Marvin Schlosser and they too reside in Edmonton. They have one son, Shaun.

After an accident Neil was paralyzed for four years passing away November 14, 1980. He was predeceased by an infant daughter, Donna Gail, in 1951.

Mac and Margaret celebrated their 63rd anniversary on April 2, 1982, after seeing so many changes over the years.

NEIL MacMILLAN

by Orril Darling

Neil MacMillan was the second son of Donald and Harriet MacMillan of Alexandria, Ontario. He came to the Irma area in 1909 to join his father and older brother who had earlier taken up homesteads. Like them he homesteaded in what later became the Roseberry School District. The Roseberry School was built on the northeast corner of his homestead.

Neil was a close friend and visitor of the Fischers often staying overnight. He was a big man, tall like his brothers, but heavier built. After homesteading he became a grain buyer for the Security Elevator Company. He worked at Bremner for many years and then at Trochu until his retirement.

In the early days of automobiles he bought a Model T Ford Coupe from Joe Hardy of Irma which he drove for a number of years. About 1926 or 1927 he traded the Ford back to Joe Hardy for a Buick passenger car. In this he and the Malcolm MacMillan family of Irma motored to Ontario to visit relatives at the old home there.

After his retirement Neil lived with the Malcolm MacMillan's until he was hospitalized by sickness and passed away.

RUBY AND NEIL MacMILLAN

Ruby Carrington, daughter of Mary and Joseph Carrington and Neil MacMillan, son of Margaret and Malcolm MacMillan spent their childhood on farms east of Irma and attended Avonglen, Alma Mater Public Schools respectively, and Irma High School. Following this Ruby worked in Edmonton at the American Air Base

while Neil continued to help his parents on the farm. With their marriage on November 27, 1943 they began farming in earnest on the MacMillan farm (NE 12-46-9). As time passed they experienced many changes and events in family, farm and community life.

Neil and Ruby were active in sports, community and church affairs. They were members of the Irma Elks and Royal Purple Lodges, both receiving twenty-five year pins. Neil was one of the founding members of the Roseberry Electrification Association and served for twenty-four years as director and president. It was this association that was responsible for getting electricity in the rural area.

With the usual family joys and trials they watched four children, three daughters, Elaine, Cheryl and Karen and a son, Blaine, grow to adulthood. An infant daughter died at the age of one month. Their oldest daughter Elaine, born November 13, 1945 attended the Irma School and the Edmonton Royal Alexandra Hospital Nurses' Training School. In 1967 she received her R.N. degree and married a geologist, Lorne Vopni from Swan River, Manitoba. With Lorne working for Mobil Oil International they have lived in Tripoli, Libya for three years, London, England seven and a half years and have now lived in Dallas, Texas for four years. Their three sons, Scott, Bradley and Jason were each born in different countries. After graduating from the Irma High School, Cheryl, their second daughter, entered the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta and received a B.A. and a Professional Diploma in Education. Cheryl taught elementary school and was sales co-ordinator for the design and sales department of a space planning and design firm. After her marriage to Douglas Bell in 1970 they resided in Vancouver and Toronto before returning to Edmonton. Doug obtained his Masters in Business



Calgary Power Representative Ken McCreedy (left), Lieutenant-Governor Frank Lynch-Staunton (right) at the presentation of the Junior Citizens of the Year Awards held at the Edmonton Plaza on October 3, 1980. Ruby, Blaine, and Neil are in centre.



The Neil MacMillan home.

Administration and works as a Financial Consultant. Sons, Craig arrived in 1974, Christopher in 1979 and daughter Erin in 1980.

Karen, their youngest daughter, born February 8, 1954 attended the Irma School, N.A.I.T. and the University of Alberta studying Commerce and Business Administration and received a Bachelor of Commerce degree. She won several awards in 4H public speaking and an I.O.O.F. speaking competition that allowed her a three week trip to New York. She works with the Alberta Labor, Fire Prevention Branch. On December 23, 1977 she married Marvin Schlosser, also a Bachelor of Commerce holder and presently working in the aviation field. Their son, Shaun was born on January 24, 1984.

Blaine, born November 30, 1963 completed grade eleven at the Irma School and grade twelve at St. Joseph Composite High School in Edmonton. He furthered his education by taking Vocational Agriculture at Lakeland College in Vermilion, Alberta. On October 3, 1980 Blaine received an Alberta Junior Citizen of the Year award from the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Frank Lynch Staunton, for the support he gave his family after his father's accident which left Neil a quadriplegic. Blaine now resides and works on the family farm called Nemac Farms Ltd. He married Mary Lou Reese from Milk River in the fall of 1984 and they have a daughter.

Along with many happy times Ruby and Neil faced some severe trials. One was the pounding hailstorm on July 25, 1956, which broke windows, damaged buildings, destroyed crops, trees, and injured livestock and wildlife in the area. At noon, as Ruby placed their new garden vegetables and chicken dinner on the table, they were forced because of flying glass to take refuge in a bedroom. Coming from the bedroom after the storm subsided they found their dinner completely ruined by glass fragments. They donned rubber boots and started a mop-up operation by shovelling hailstones, broken glass, leaves and debris through the broken windows. Outside, with the melting of hailstones, dead chickens started to appear. It took many years of replanting and repairing to restore the farmland and buildings.

Another hardship came in 1965 as a heavy eight inch rainfall in two days flooded the farm causing deep gullies and washouts. Because of a more than ten foot deep washout the road leading south was impassable. Due to the heavy snowfall in the winter of 1974 and the consequent spring runoff from the neighboring land the farm became surrounded by a lake which necessitated the municipality to pump out the water. This new project for the area created much excitement. The water was piped south for two miles and then flowed to the river. In spite of the noisy engine going day and night this was a big relief to the MacMillans as it meant they could again use the affected land and the roads to their fields and pasture.

The family experienced tragedy in October 1976 when Neil who was on his way to his annual big game hunt, suffered a broken neck requiring him to be hospitalized till his death on November 14, 1980. Ruby and Blaine continue to maintain the farm with the help of William (Bill) Guy who has worked for them for many years.

Considering the several generations of MacMillans

who have lived in the Irma area obviously this community has been very good for the family and has brought many happy times.

THE MAGUIRE FAMILY

The Maguire family moved to Irma in the early fall of 1919 from Kitscoty, Alberta.

Robert Wesley (known as "Wes" to everyone) was agent for United Grain Growers in Kitscoty and was transferred to Irma as the agent here.

When they arrived the family which included Mrs. Maguire, daughter Lila and three sons: Frank, Bob and Ben stayed in the U.G.G. office until their furniture arrived by train. They lived in the Kurfman house on the west side of town for a few months, then moving to Coultmans Mill building which was north of the old Lattner Machine Shop. In the early 1920's they moved into their own home built by carpenter "Dad" Mildon. This was located on the corner south of the present Catholic Church.

A son Bertie was born in Irma but died in infancy.

Lila worked in the telephone office and at the ticket booth during Chautauqua days.

Frank, Bob and Ben delivered the Edmonton Journal, Frank walking the route, then Bob took over riding a Shetland pony that he got from Jess Allen of the Avonglen district. Ben continued the job when Bob went to work for Jack Fletcher in the hardware. The boys played hockey in the Gas Line Hockey League, Frank and Bob for Irma and Ben for Wainwright.

In 1936 Wes built the B.A. service station running that as well as having the Case Machinery Agency.

Mrs. Maguire passed away in April 1938 after a lengthy illness. Mr. Maguire passed away October 1946 in Edmonton.

Lila left Irma and some years later married Hartvig Sorgen of Holden who had his own barbershop and Poolroom. Lila ran her beauty shop in the same building. They retired in Kelowna then Rutland. Hartvig passed away and Lila still remains in their home in Rutland.



Wes and Mrs. Maguire with baby Bertie on her knee. Lila and Bob in the back seat. Frank is looking over steering wheel and Ben is on the running board in front of picture.

Frank at the time of writing lives in Edmonton with his wife Mabel after serving three years in the Canadian Army. They have two children; Francis Leigh "Butch" who is married to Sally Woolnough and they have twin boys, Sean and Travis. Butch and Sal run their own business - Small Engines and Equipment Ltd.

Cheri-Anne married Brian Sadler who is now Major Sadler - base commander of the Canadian Forces at Baldy Hughes, B.C. They have three children; Teresa Christopher, and Michael.

Mabel's two sons Bill and Tom "Joe" Marsden from a former marriage live in Edmonton. Bill married to Sally Masterson works in the Government as Director for the Film Industry Development and Economic Development. They have three children; Kathy (Mrs. Steve Faulknor) living in Calgary and their two children are Melanie and Michael. Mark is married and living in Edmonton and working for an Electronic company and has two children; Amberly and Spencer. Tracy lives in Edmonton and working on her final year in pharmacy at the time of writing.

Tom - "Joe" is a Captain in the Investigation Branch of the Fire Dept. and will retire in July. He has three sons; Bill, Bob and Ron all married and living in Edmonton. A son Kenny and daughter Patty were killed in an automobile accident near Keremeos, B.C. in 1973.

Bob and wife Annetta nee (MacMillan) live in Vernon, B.C.

Ben and wife Rose live in Edgewood, B.C. Ben has three boys; Ron in Kamloops also Michael and Don in Vancouver.

GEORGE MANNERS

by A. Dootson

George Manners was a harness and shoe repairman in Irma for a number of years. To our knowledge he had only one brother out here. His father was known to have visited him on one occasion. As far as can be recalled, George came from Ontario.

He had no permanent home. He lived in the Loss shack, Garney shack, the McDowell house, where the sports grounds are now, the Sawyer place and others. Home was wherever he hung his hat. At one time his business was in the vicinity of where the Club Cafe now stands.

He is remembered as having a team of horses and driving buggy or wagon, going to various farms to do harness repairs. Places we have heard him mention were Stanley Lisson's, Ambrose Firkus and the Holt ranch.

He carried his equipment which consisted of his harness horse. This was set up in many a farm kitchen if outside buildings weren't heated. He required warmth for waxing the thread he used in sewing tugs, etc.

While George worked at repair work on the farms, his meals were provided. He also had made trips out in the country with a team from the livery barn. Sometimes he took the resident doctor, or on one occasion he mentioned it was a prominent businessman going calling on his lady friend. The gentleman had a box of chocolates with him, George remarked, but he didn't offer me a chocolate. He was always happy when someone brought

in cookies, eggs, etc. Those were the days when eggs had no market value. He loved to have a treat for the children.

Even though failing health meant he had to move elsewhere, he kept in touch with some of his Irma friends at Christmastime.

THE MARBRY FAMILY

by Aubyn Matthews (nee Marbry)

My dad, Orma Marbry and eldest son, Roy, immigrated to Canada from Mattoon, Illinois in 1912. They came to Irma, Alberta and filed for homesteads twelve miles northwest of Irma.

In the summer they worked the land and built a sod and mud house in the side of a hill. In the winter they worked on the Grand Trunk Railroad at Melville, Saskatchewan. My dad had been a conductor on the Railroad in the U.S.A.

In 1914 my mother, Lula, two sons Kenneth and Richard, and two daughters, Hazel and Aubyn, came to the farm and my brother, Ralph came with the carload of household effects, two horses, two cows and some chickens.

Two years later my sister Veda was born and sometime in that period my grandmother Marbry arrived from the U.S.A. She passed away in 1922.

During the early twenties we received our education at Melville, and Lynx school after the settlers were able to have it built. There were only eight students when Lynx first opened; two Bridgemans, Stan and Gladys; two Osbornes, Donald and Thelma; one Wilson, Roy and three Marbrys, Kenneth, Richard and Aubyn.

In 1922 we moved to Melville and returned to Jarrow in 1925. Veda and I went to Jarrow school. Mary McKay was the teacher.

The fall of 1930 I married Ward Matthews. In 1939 my parents and Veda moved to Vancouver. Ward joined the Edmonton Regiment in 1940 and when he was sent overseas in 1941, I moved to Vancouver with our five children, Lyle, Norman, Beverley, Velma and Allen.



The Marbry family, 1916.

Ward returned from overseas in 1945 and we had two more sons, Wayne and Keith.

List of Marbry family and Grandchildren:

Orma Ralph (1874 - 1948) married Lula York (1874 - 1962)
children and grandchildren.

Roy Raymond (1894 - 1928) married Grace Reid (1899 - 1962).

Douglas (1920 - 1921) Dorothy, Hudson, Raymond.

Hazel Marie (1896 - 1925) married Ross Shippy (dates unknown).

Ralph Edward (1902 - 1963) married Irma Edmonds (1900 -), Alma, Ralph.

Kenneth Perry (1905 - 19) married Phyllis Edmonds (1910 -). Elinor, Geraldine, Dixie, Kenneth, Sharon.

Richard Eugene (1908 -) married Doris McClain (1910 - 1978) Yvonne, Norma, Kenneth, Lynn.

Aubyn Maurine (1910 -) married Ward Matthews (1901 -). Lyle, Norman, Beverley, Velma, Allen, Wayne, Keith.

Veda Beth (1916 -) married Armand Blackmore (dates unknown). Penny, Lou Ann.

Many great-grandchildren and many great-great-grandchildren.

JERRY MARK FAMILY

by Evelyn Mark

Jerrold Raymond (Jerry) Mark was born at Viking, Alberta, on May 20th, 1945, oldest son of Ralph and Emma Mark. Jerry has spent his entire life in the Irma area. He received his early schooling at Batt school, located north of Jarrow. When he was ready to start grade seven (1957) the school was closed and the students were bussed to Irma, where he completed his high school in 1963. Following graduation he immediately started farming with his father and still continues to enjoy that profession.

The love of Jerry's life was always sports. From an early age he loved to participate in baseball, softball and curling. He continues to have an active interest in sports through coaching and as a spectator, especially following the particular interests of his three children.

In 1965 Jerry was united in marriage to Evelyn Elizabeth Hardy, oldest daughter of Ivan and Catherine Hardy of Irma. Evelyn has also spent her entire life in the Irma area, receiving her early schooling at Albert school, north of Irma. Evelyn's high school years were spent at Irma High School, with graduation in 1963. From 1963-65 Evelyn spent her time in Edmonton, receiving a degree in Medical Laboratory Technology. This study was

completed at N.A.I.T. and the University of Alberta Hospital.

To this marriage were born three children, Gordon Francis on September 10th, 1964; Leonard Jerrold on January 7th, 1967 and Teresa Emma Catherine on November 14th, 1969.

Gordon completed his entire school life at Irma, graduating in 1981. At present he is playing hockey with the Kamloops Oilers of the Western Hockey League. In June of 1983 he had the pleasure of being drafted by the New Jersey Devils of the National Hockey League. Gord hopes to make hockey a career, but in time plans to return home to farm with his father.

Leonard completed his schooling to the end of grade ten at Irma School. In September of 1982, Leonard moved to Sherwood Park, Alberta, where he is busy completing high school and hoping to graduate in the spring of 1984. Leonard is also an avid hockey player, having played minor hockey in Irma since he was four years of age. He is presently playing for the Sherwood Park Major Midget Hockey Club and enjoying some considerable success. He hopes to follow in his big brother's footsteps and have a try at professional hockey. He plans to farm sometime in the future.

Teresa is presently attending grade nine at Irma School, where she has spent her entire school life. Teresa does very well at school and is also very active in sports, having participated in girls' softball, figure skating, ringette, high school volleyball and curling. She tells us she plans to become a lawyer after graduating from high school. We certainly hope she is successful.



Jerry and Evelyn Mark and family. Back: Evelyn, Leonard. Middle: Gordon and Jerry. Front: Teresa.

RALPH MARK

by Emma Mark

Ralph was the second child of Ray and Bessie Mark. He was born in Amy, Colorado on August 26th, 1920. An older sister, Leota, died at the age of two, barely two months before Ralph was born. Two more children were born from this union - Louise, two years younger than Ralph, and Vern, four years younger. Louise (Mrs. Del Smith) now resides in Irma, while Vern lives in Spokane.

When the children were very young, Ray and Bessie brought their family to Alberta and lived on a farm near Kinsella for a short spell, then returned to the States.

At the ages of six and four, respectively, Ralph and Louise travelled by train, alone, to Alberta to live with their mother and stepfather, Mathew (Tam) Ambler. They lived about seven miles north of Irma. Tam was a true westerner and did his best to make a living for his ready-made family, even resorting to brewing some firewater "up in dem dar hills". Bessie was a hard worker, tending big gardens and raising large flocks of chickens and turkeys.

Ralph attended school at Education Point and is still addressed as "Hank" by some of his old school pals. Recreation in those days consisted of riding, roping, swimming in sloughs and in winter it was hockey played with a willow stick and a frozen horse dropping.

While in Grade IX, Ralph had to leave school to help at home. Feed had to be hauled from fifteen miles away. A stop was made at Greer's to change horses. This was a whole day's trip and often dreadfully cold. For a couple of harvests he worked for Harry Halverson, pitching bundles on a threshing crew. The wages the first year were one dollar a day and two dollars the second year. Maybe experience counted in those days too.

With wages so meagre, there was not suffice for a trip to the city. As a result many fellows "rode the rails" - hitchhiked rides on the freight trains. On one such trip he and Allan Larson were caught and made to shovel coal all the way to the city. As dirty as they were, they were fortunate to be allowed a room in a hotel.

At about the age of eighteen Ralph went to work at the Holt ranch. There were about six or seven men working there then so many a prank was played. On one occasion a fellow tipped his rack of feed. He was quite upset and stood pondering how he was going to get his fork to reload. Ralph, passing by on his way for a load, was told of the predicament, so he said, "set fire to it - then you'll find your fork". Without any hesitation the fellow struck a match to it and calmly watched it burn. When he stepped over and picked up what was left of his fork he muttered "I'll be d---ed". Needless to say two men came nearly to losing their jobs.

In the fall of '39, Emma Johnson was appointed schoolteacher for Batt School. The following January the school burned down and for the rest of the term classes were held in an old abandoned farmhouse. That summer the new school was built. The first year Miss Johnson boarded at Theroux's and the second year at Tobe Smith's. Ralph and Emma began a two-year courtship which ended in marriage on July 7th, 1942. Their wedding dance was held in the new school after a



Larry Mark's grain-handling system.

honeymoon to B.C.

Ralph rented a half section W.1/2 35-46-10-W4 from Joe Mac Holt and Emma continued to teach. In order to have horses to work his own land, Ralph broke horses for the use of them. With an outfit of eight horses, only two of them old faithfuls, he required his wife's assistance to get them hitched to the three bottom plough. By the end of the day they were willing to stand. With a few pigs to feed, cows to milk and a teacher's salary, they were able to buy the E.1/2 35-46-10-W4.

Entertainment in those days consisted of ball games in summer, dances and card parties at Batt School in winter and much visiting among neighbors.

On May 20th, 1945, their first son Jerrold (Jerry) was born and three years later on August 10th, 1948, Lawrence (Larry) entered the world.

Shortly before Larry was born Ralph bought a truck, his pride and joy, as they had been married six years and had no vehicle. But thanks to good neighbors and a dear and helpful friend Hugh McGuire, a neighboring bachelor, they had managed to get their cream to town and groceries purchased. They had their own transportation in the winter - something to be said for the cold weather.

In the fall of '48, Ralph and family together with his sister and family, motored to Spokane to visit their father. It was a very touching scene to see father and children reunited after so many years. Several visits were made back and forth and many good times had together.



Ralph Mark disking.

Ray Mark died in Montana on his way home from a visit to Canada.

When the Hutterites bought out Joe Mac Holt, Ralph lost his rented land on which they lived. This meant finding and moving a house, building a barn and pig house, and drilling a well. This was a busy summer for all. They moved into their new home in the fall of '49, the day before the threshers arrived.

The boys had their early schooling at Batt and finished at Irma after the buses began to run. When the boys became old enough to help, the whole family took off to the field for the day, picking rocks, piling brush, haying or hauling bales. Of course by this time Ralph had acquired a few more quarters of land.

Jerry, and later Larry, joined the Albert ball team. Every Sunday found them off to a Sports Day. Ralph coached the Albert team for several years.

After Jerry graduated from Grade XII, he continued to help his dad farm. In August, 1965, he married Evelyn Hardy. They moved a new house onto the land that Hugh McGuire was living on at the time of his death. Three children were born, Gordon, Leonard and Teresa. They still reside on the farm.

On finishing his Grade XII, Larry went to SAIT at Calgary for a year and took Constructional Engineering. The following two winters he worked in Edmonton at the airport. He and Doris Armitage were married in December, 1968. Larry took over the farm home and the "old folks" moved into Irma where they still reside. In February, 1984 Larry married Donna Roggensack.

Ralph worked as a bus driver, caretaker of the curling rink and an agent for Alberta Crop Hail Insurance Company. He was also hired as a salesman for Raydon Motors of Vegreville and later Willmark Motors of Viking. Emma went back to teach the year before moving to Irma and continued teaching at the Hutterite Colony for ten years.

At present Ralph still sells Hail Insurance, helps his boys and looks after his horses. He now has a herd of over twenty purebred Quarter Horses which he keeps out at Larry's farm.

During summer and fall he travels about attending many horse shows. Horses were his first love and will probably be his last.



Mark family. Jerry, Ralph, Emma, Larry.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN MARSHALL

Mr. and Mrs. John Marshall were married November 11, 1898 at Havelock, Ontario. They came west in 1915 to take up residence on the S.E. 6-47-7 in the Fabyan District with their four children, Floyd, Stanley, Joy and Mae. They were also foster parents to Ray Goldman.

Floyd, the eldest, left and took up a homestead N.W. of Westlock where he married Jean Gordon who had emigrated from Scotland. They had four children, Floyd Jr., Audrey, Sandra and Shirley. The family moved to Edmonton in the mid-Fifties. Jean passed away in August, 1969. Floyd is in residence in a Nursing Home in Calgary and, at age eighty-five manages in a wheelchair.

Stanley also homesteaded in Westlock area. In the early Thirties he sold his land to his brother, Floyd, and returned to the Irma district. In 1935, in the Irma United Church Manse, Stanley was united in marriage with Lucy Strachan (Thompson) of the Passchendale district, who had emigrated from Scotland with her aunt and uncle,



Ralph Mark on Wayward Cutie at Irma Fair, 1980.



Mr. and Mrs. John Marshall.

Walter and Mary Thompson in 1929. Stan and Lucy worked for farmers in the Irma district, (Daltons, Allens and Louie Larson), before moving to Edmonton in 1939. Stan passed away in March, 1969. Lucy married Gage Pendleton in May 1971 and still resides in Edmonton when they are not on the farm in the Passchendale district.

Joy was married in Edmonton to Val Farmer. Daughter Irene married Ken Waring of River Course, Alberta. They farm on the Saskatchewan side. Val passed away in 1975 and Joy still resides in Edmonton.

Mae married Joe Craig of the Passchendale district, raising a family of four girls and two boys. Jacqueline was laid to rest in Irma Cemetery at age fifteen. Joe Jr., married Joyce McNab of Fabyan and they live in Valleyview, Alberta. Lillian married Robert Sprackman, Kay married Jim St. John, Edith married Len Lakevick and they all reside in Edmonton. Douglas passed away in the mid-seventies while living in Edmonton.

Mae and Joe had a fatal car accident in October, 1968, west of Edmonton while returning from the farm in Valleyview.

Ray Goldman married and lives in Powell River, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. John Marshall moved to the Education Point district in the early thirties. John spent many years travelling with a stallion. He was a great lover of horses. Mrs. Marshall was always lending a helping hand to neighbours in times of need.

In 1942 they retired in Irma where they resided until Mrs. Marshall passed away in June, 1960. Mr. Marshall followed in October, 1963.

out of reach before Jack could move. Carefully setting the oats down, as the mare watched and chewed her oats, Jack threw his old felt hat on the ground, jumped on it, and cursed the mare and all her ancestors for ages back. Then shaking out his hat and putting it on, he picked up the oats and his voice all sweetness once more, he tried again. Once more the mare grabbed a bite and left. Once more Jack vented his rage. As I watched fascinated it was repeated again and again. I had to go to work so I wasn't there for the finish, but I know it was at least ten o'clock before Jack drove his team to the field.

A few years later he threshed with us and I was old enough to stay home and field pitch. One cold frosty morning I was waiting for the first empty rack. Jack had a load on and was burrowed down in the bundles, waiting his turn. I was down with him, also for warmth. It was a clear morning with the hint of a good day when the sun got up. Jack was happy and comfortable and began to sing a hymn. Then one horse moved restlessly and got a foot out over the trace. Jack had to move and the air turned blue. All the way down and back up on the load Jack cursed his team. Then settled down again, he took up the hymn right where he had left off.

One year he had to move off his rented land. He also had the S.W.1/4 of 8-47-8-W4th rented and the forty acres cultivated were in summerfallow. He grumbled about having to leave with that summerfallow ready to seed. His wife, more realistic than Jack, remarked that the land in question had been broken for several years and still had never grown a good crop. Jack with true Irish logic replied that he knew this also but by the _____ and I won't quote it; it would produce one of these years and he didn't want to miss it.



John Marshall and one of his proud stallions.

JOHN (JACK) MARSHALL

by Bill Patterson

Jack Marshall was another neighbor I first met the fall of 1929. It was a dry year, feed was scarce, and Dad was cutting hay on shares on a quarter Jack had rented. It was late October and I went over with the men Saturday morning to bring the teams home. Jack was fall plowing and had turned his horses out to pasture overnight. He was just trying to catch them when we arrived. He shook a pan of oats to tempt them, and in a voice fairly dripping honey, he called them to him. One mare, in true horse fashion, came up, reached out for a bite of oats, and was



Lucy Marshall and her mother.

THE MASSON FAMILY

William (Bill) Masson was born in Auldearn, Nairnshire, Scotland on June 13th, 1888 and came to Canada with his family in 1906 to the Olds, Alberta area. He joined the Merchants Bank of Canada and worked in Medicine Hat, Brooks, Vegreville, Carstairs, Forestburg and Camrose before coming to Irma as Manager on December 7th, 1918.

When the Merchants Bank was taken over by the Bank of Montreal, he went into a General Agency in Irma which included being land agent for the Hudson's Bay Company and C.P.R. Sheriff's Deputy for ten years, grain track buyer for James Richardson and Sons and agent for The Alberta Hail Insurance Board.

He married Palma Berg from Viking on February 2nd, 1926. Palma was born in Effington, South Dakota on July 4th, 1902 and came to Viking as a young child with her pioneering parents. She grew up on a farm north of Viking and attended school at Lake Thomas, Viking and Camrose Lutheran College before coming to Irma to work at Mrs. Shaw's Hotel.

For almost fifty years Irma was their home and during that time Bill was Social Credit M.L.A. for the Wainwright Constituency from 1935-1955, and Treasury Branch agent for nineteen years until he retired in 1975. He was also a Notary Public for Alberta.

Both Palma and Bill were members of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church and taught Sunday School there. They were active in the Gideon Bible Society and Bill was a life member of the Gratton Masonic Lodge. Palma was a local telephone operator for Alberta Government Telephones for twelve and one-half years, from 1953 to 1966.

Four children were born to the Massons, one died in infancy, but Lilian, Bill and Jim were raised in Irma and attended Irma schools. All three went to the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Lilian (Mrs. E. Jamieson) received her B.Sc. in Nursing; Bill his B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering and Jim his degree in Law. While growing up in Irma, they all enjoyed sports and Bill was well known for his hockey, baseball and curling activities in the area.

Bill married an Irma girl, Marjorie Coultman and they live in Denver, Colorado. They have two daughters Joanne and Karen. Jim lives in Edmonton and has two sons, Dale and Grant, while Lilian is in Vernon, B.C. and has a son Jerry and two daughters, Lynn and Cathy.

Most important of all Mr. Masson became a born-again Christian on October 7th, 1933, according to the Gospel of John, Chapter 3. He was a charter member of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church of Irma and was Elder and Superintendent of the Sunday School for twenty years.

On February 2nd, 1976 he and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding.

When Palma's health deteriorated, they sold their home and business in Irma and moved to Vialta Lodge in Viking. Palma passed away February 17th, 1976. Bill continued to live in the Lodge where he remained in very good health until February, 1983. He died April 16th, 1983.

Editor's note: Old-timers remember how Bill Masson was so willing to take people to hospital or doctor. His car was always ready to go. For years he picked up children to take them to Sunday School. He was a very sport-minded man and helped many boys to achieve goals they would not otherwise have been able to.



Palma Masson with baby Jim, Lilian and Bill, 1942.



Palma and Bill Masson in the flower garden.

THE MATHESON FAMILY

William and Barbara Matheson (Will and Bargie) came to Canada from Lansing, Michigan in 1906, along with Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Jackson and family (Mrs. Matheson's family). Both families settled in the Strawberry Plains district with adjoining homesteads. The Jacksons only stayed for two years, moving to Hardisty in 1908 where Mr. Jackson had a livery stable. All of the Jackson family have now passed away.

The Matheson's remained on the farm till 1941 when they moved to Irma and to Edmonton in 1942. They sold the farm to Earl Tomlinson, who later moved the Matheson house into Irma where Mrs. Tomlinson now resides. Mr. Matheson passed away in 1945 and Mrs. Matheson died in 1968.

The Mathesons had four children, Donald (Dan), Ken, Frank and Margaret. Dan married Verle Coffin in 1933 and they had two children, Donald and Ethel, both still living in Edmonton. They stayed on the farm with his folks until June, 1940 when Dan enlisted with the Armed Services and spent six years in service (three years in Canada and three years overseas). Verle moved into Irma when Dan enlisted and spent most of the time there while Dan was away. When he returned to civilian life in 1946 they moved to Edmonton where he worked as Special Policeman and then at construction work. Dan passed away in 1973 and Verle is still living in a Senior Citizen's Apartment in Edmonton.

Ken married Ruby Hardy, a widow with two children (Ed and Mary) in 1935, and Ken and Ruby had one daughter, Irene. Ken also joined the armed forces in August, 1940, and after he was discharged he operated a taxi service in Calgary until his death in 1956. Ruby is still in Edmonton, also living in a Senior Citizen's Apartment.

Frank married Lillian Hughes in 1939 and they had eight children, Faye, Lorna, Frankie, Donna, Terry, Bill, Judy and Stacey. They also moved to Edmonton where Frank drove truck for a number of years, then worked at maintenance work at the University Hospital until his health failed. He passed away in 1978 and Lillian is still working at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.



Dan and Verle Matheson.

Margaret married John Knicely in 1940 and they had four children, Roy, Bob, Barbara and Bill. They homesteaded at Flatbush, Alberta, where John drove a school bus for a number of years, along with farming until his death in 1973. Margaret married Stan Alexandrowich but passed away in 1980 after over a year of suffering and surgery for a brain tumor.

THE NORMAN MATHISON FAMILY

In 1906 Norman Mathison decided to answer the call, "Go west, young man, go west." Leaving his home at Ayr, Ontario, he went to Gleichen, Alberta for a time and then to Bawlf, Alberta. In 1910 he came to Irma. He became known to all here as "Doc". As he had learned the barbering trade at Ayr he worked for Art Ambler, who had a pool room and barber shop located about where McFarland's store is today. After this shop burned in the 1911 fire he opened his own shop in the Stuart and Peterson building, which is now the site of the Co-op store. He also became secretary for the village and school. Later he left the barbering to others to become a full-time assistant secretary for the Battle River Municipality and continued in these positions for many years.

Sarah Berreth arrived in Irma in 1908 with her parents to homestead south of Irma. In April of 1911 Doc and Sarah were married and they built a home on the west side of King Street, now 49th Street, which became the home of Mrs. I.C. Knudson after the fire in 1931. Six children were born to them - two dying as babies and buried in the Irma cemetery. A set of twins were perhaps the first twins in the district.

The people of the Irma Community received a shock on October 12, 1928 when they heard of Doc's death. He had gone to Wainwright and having missed the local train evidently tried to ride home on a freight train. As the train was crossing the railway bridge across the Battle River he fell off. He is buried beside his babies in the cemetery. He loved music and flowers and was of a sociable temperament.



Taken 1920 on steps of new school. Back Row: Ted Berreth holding first baby "Buster" Neil Berreth, Sarah Mathison, Doc Mathison. Front Row: Bernice, Don, Ina and Jim.



Doc Mathison taken in early 20's standing in the doorway of the fire hall.

In 1931 the family, Sarah, Bernice and Don and twins Ina and Jim moved to make their home in Calgary. Ina spent a year in Irma with the Knudson family and attended school. In 1944 Sarah married Jim Marshall. Bernice passed away in 1952 in Vernon, British Columbia and Don passed away in Regina, Saskatchewan in 1954. Sarah, a widow now lives in a nursing home in White Rock, British Columbia and will celebrate her ninety-third birthday this year. She had to work hard during her younger years but has lived a good life. Son Jim was Doctor of Physics at McGill university but is now retired and lives at Cambridge, Ontario with his wife of forty-one years. They have no family. His twin Ina, Mrs. J. Strachan, lives at White Rock and visits her mother frequently. She has two children. Jack lives in Penticton, British Columbia and is manager of a condominium development. He is married and has one child. Joyce lives in White Rock and is the mother of two children.



Sarah Marshall (Mathison) with her twins Jim Mathison and Ina Strachan in 1980.

WILLIAM MATTHEW FAMILY

by Jean Matthew

Mr. and Mrs. William Matthew came to Lougheed, Alberta, in 1912. Mrs. Matthew and Jean went back to Scotland. War broke out and they couldn't get back to Canada 'till the war was over. Jim was born in Scotland.

In November, 1919 the Matthew family took up residence at Jarrow, Alberta. William (Bill) Matthew had a home ready for his wife Isobella and children, Jean and Jimmy, on their arrival from Scotland. They lived in the Fischer house for a few years. Gordon (Scotty) was born in 1920. They moved into their own home in 1922. William Matthew died in 1924. Mrs. Matthew and children lived in Jarrow for a few more years.

Jean left and went to Edmonton to go to school in 1926. Mrs. Matthew moved to Victoria, B.C. in 1934. Jim moved to Edmonton, while Gordon lived at the Holt Ranch. In 1941 he joined the Air Force. After the war he again took up residence in Jarrow.

WILLIAM MATTHEW FAMILY

by Frances Matthew

The family of William and Isobella Matthew were Jean, Jim and Gordon (Scotty). All three were in the service during war II, Jean in Air Force, Jim in the Army and Gordon in the Air Force. Jean Matthew has been living in Lethbridge for over thirty years. Jim married Ruby Carter. They had a family of two, Bill and Carole. They lived in Edmonton while Jim was serving his country.

Bill married Jan Cowling and they have two children, Wade and Brenda, all live in Edmonton. Carole married George Jones and they have a family of four, Robert, David, Stacey and Brian, and they all live in Edmonton.

Jim's second marriage was to Dorothy Dun, and their family were two girls, Frances and Shari. In 1967 Jim passed away while they were living in Lethbridge. Later Dorothy and girls moved to Red Deer. Both Dorothy and Frances worked at Alberta Government Telephones. Frances married Dale McNichol and they live in Calgary. They have two girls, Erin and Stacey.

Dorothy and Shari moved to Salmon Arm, then Dorothy moved to Kamloops, where she still lives and works for A.G.T. Shari married Bill Armstrong and they have two boys, Duane and Devin. They live in Salmon



Jean, Scotty and Jim Matthew.

Arm.

Gordon Matthew (Scotty) of Jarrow, worked at Holt's ranch when I, Frances Oracheski, came to Holts to help Gladys with house chores. I came from Viking in the Spring of 1938.

In 1941 Scotty joined the Air Force and I went to work in Edmonton. After we were married we made Edmonton our home. We have a family of five; Gloria, Pat, Marlyn, Judy and Art. We lived in Jarrow, Irma and finally retired to Wainwright, after Scotty's illness which lingered about twelve years. Scotty passed away November 10th, 1982.

After attending school in Jarrow, then Irma, all children left one by one, till we were left alone.

Gloria married Rod McDuff. They lived in New Westminster, B.C. with their family of five, Sandra, Brent, Tracey, Tim and Stephen. Rod was in the plumbing business. In 1981 Rod and Gloria bought a place in Langley, B.C. where they could have a horse or two. Now Gloria has a barn full of horses, Arabian brood mares. Sandra married Larry Sparks.

At New Year's of 1982, Rod was hospitalized, and he passed away September 6th, 1982. Since then Brent has been to Scotland twice. On his second trip he married Marie and brought her back to B.C. Tracey's interests are horses. She rides and takes care of them.

Pat married Bob Burton. After living in Edmonton, Vegreville and Medicine Hat, they bought a farm northeast of Irma. They have a family of two, Rick and Shari.

Marlyn married Lorne Anquist. After living in Edmonton they returned to Irma. Lorne is in the plumbing business. Their family of three boys is Jason, Brian and Trevor, whose interests are hockey!

Judy, as soon as she graduated from University, went to India for four months with Cross Roads. On her return she worked in Edmonton then in Victoria, still involved with Cross Roads. Later she was accepted with Canada World Youth in Toronto which took her to Sri Lanka. It was before she left Canada that she met Calvin Piggott of Halifax, Nova Scotia, who was also working for Canada World Youth. While in Sri Lanka, they were married and came back to Vancouver, Wainwright and Irma, then back to Halifax, where they make their home. Their thoughts are to go back to Sri Lanka to help people in the Third World.

I had the pleasure to meet Devika Rodrigo, the girl that worked with Judy in 1982, last July in Edmonton while Universiade was on, and they took part in dance recitals, with a group from Sri Lanka. Rick and Shari Burton had the pleasure of meeting people that their Aunt Judy and Uncle Calvin worked with. Judy and Calvin live in Truro, Nova Scotia.

Art married Barb Owen and they lived in Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan and Westlock. Art had a trucking business till he sold out, came to Irma and Wainwright for a short stay, then moved to the coast. They moved into Rod and Gloria's house when they moved to Langley. Art is in the plumbing business. They have a family of two, Carissa and Douglas.

Mrs. Matthew Sr. passed away in Lethbridge in September, 1972.



Francis with Gloria in stroller and Mrs. I.B. Matthew.



Four generations back - Gloria, Mrs. Oracheski, Francis. Front: Sandra and Tracey.

GEORGE AND IDA MATTHEWS

by Ward Matthews



Marlyn and Jason, Pat and Shari.



Calvin and Judy.



Gordon, Douglas and Arthur.

Emigrated from North Dakota to Killam December, 1906. Dad had come ahead and filed on a homestead five miles northeast of Killam. He shipped a carload of effects, one horse, one cow, one dog and some chickens. The car was spotted in Daysland as that was the end of the line until spring. My uncle came with the car and took care of the animals till spring. Mother and we children were brought to Killam by a livery sleigh. Dad had a house ready for us. We went to school in Killam until we moved to the farm, where we drove five miles to school in Youngstown till Poplar Park school was built. Dad worked in Nichols' store and tin shop. We farmed and had a herd of cattle, and in 1918 Dad sold the farm to Gordon Brody and he bought a half section of C.P.R. land two and a half miles from Jarrow. Dad passed away in 1936 and Mother lived past her one hundredth birthday.

My sisters Jennie and Nellie, and brother Willie have passed away. Sister Winnie, Mrs. Wes Richardson lives in Edmonton, Marion, Mrs. Northley at Whitecourt, and Laura, Mrs. Loring, lives at Salmon Arm, B.C.

In 1930 I married Aubyn Marbry. In 1940 I joined the army and Aubyn and our five children moved to Vancouver, to be near her parents, when I went overseas in 1941. I got my discharge in Vancouver at war's end. We made our home in B.C. from then on and added two more sons to our family. Of our seven children, five boys and two girls, all are married and living near except Allen who resides in Calgary.

We have eighteen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.



Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Matthews.

JOHN WILLIAM MATTHEWS AND FAMILY

by Gertrude Matthews

William Matthews (called Will by his family and Bill by many of his friends) was born in Alberton on Prince Edward Island in 1881. In 1906 he came West and claimed a homestead on the N.W. 36-47-9 in the Albert district, formerly known as Zoldovara. His first shack was situated near or on the boundary line between his homestead and that of George Hardy, who came west the same year, also from Prince Edward Island.

A homestead cost ten dollars and the promise to spend six months a year on the place for three years. While he did not have to be on the homestead Will went to Winnipeg and became a street car conductor.

A few years after Will came West his brother Fred followed him and homesteaded the S.E. 1/4 36-47-9. Fred brought with him his wife, who would probably have been the first woman in the district. Their baby, Frederick, would have been the first baby in the area. Mrs. F. Matthews died in childbirth.

The first Albert School was built in 1911 on land donated by William Matthews.

Besides being engaged in mixed farming he also raised Pinto horses, in the early years. He had one bay riding horse named Roy, a racer, which he was very proud of, and which he entered in all the races at local fairs and sports.

Will raised silver foxes for many years. If a mother fox refused to care for her little ones or showed signs she might kill them they were taken from her. It had been found that mother cats made very good foster mothers for baby foxes. They were much in demand in the Albert District at certain times by those who raised foxes.

For relaxation Will enjoyed baseball games and country dances. In later years he enjoyed curling and attending hockey games. In his bachelor days, Will took great pride in his bread making, winning prizes at the country fairs. There was one batch of bread that did not turn out so well. Some Strychnine (used for poisoning gophers) accidentally fell into the flour from the shelf above. The bread had been sampled before the empty bottle was noticed. Fortunately there were no fatalities.



William and Eleanor Matthews.



Bill and Gertrude Matthews.

Times improved for Will when his sister Eleanor came to keep house for him. She cared for him for quite a number of years until the time of her death about 1935. During Eleanor's illness their niece, Harriet Asselstine, came to help care for her. Harriet had recently graduated from nurses' training. When she was a baby Aunt Eleanor had cared for her for a time following her mother's death. She spent many summers with Uncle Will and Aunt Eleanor and continues to visit her Aunt Gertrude and cousins in Irma.

In 1937 Will married Miss Gertrude Smith who had taught in the Albert School. They had two daughters, Marjory (Mrs. Jim MacDuff) of Victoria, B.C. and Carol (Mrs. Don Creasy) of Irma.

Marjory and Jim have five children, three girls and twin boys. Carol and Don have two children, twins - a boy and a girl. It is interesting to note that Bill Matthews was also one of a set of twins, having had a twin sister, Belle.

Mr. Matthews passed away in 1971 at the age of ninety years. He was a faithful member of the Alliance Church.

I, Gertrude Matthews, was born in Elwood, Indiana to Eva and Bruton Smith. My father was English and my mother an American. I have one older sister, Mildred.

While we were in Elwood my father worked in a tin plate factory, but when I was still a baby we moved to the state of Washington where we lived for about fourteen months.

In the year 1907 my father and grandfather came to Canada to file on homesteads. They came from Washington to Vancouver by boat, and then by train to Stettler. That was as far as the railway came at that time.

They hired a team and buggy to drive the rest of the way to where Loyalist was later situated. They each filed on a homestead two and a half miles east of there.

In 1908 my parents and grandparents came to Canada. They came to Vancouver and then by train by way of Calgary to Hardisty, arriving there Labor Day. We stayed there a few days before going by team and wagon to the homestead. It was too cold to spend the winter in the rough shacks that were put up that fall, with lumber hauled from Hardisty. We spent two or three years at what was known as the "Smith and Johns" ranch in the Nose Hills. They were not relatives of ours but became very good friends.

I took my elementary school grades at "Greenore", a country school two and a half miles from our home. My sister and I walked until we had a horse to ride. The school was closed during the cold months.

There were no boys in our family so my sister and I always helped with the chores. Our cows grazed on unfenced land. It was generally my job to get them after school. Sometimes they were hard to find. We helped with the milking. When haying time came we would take turns raking the hay and then helping our father stack it. The big job came at harvest time. Father never let my sister or me stook. He said it was too heavy work for girls, but we did run the binder. He insisted though that we know what to do when minor things went wrong, like the canvas sticking, or the twine breaking. I've often wondered how I managed to run the binder, and drive four horses, but never learned to drive a car.

There were some household chores I was responsible for, like doing the dishes and dusting. The cream separator was one thing that I didn't like washing, or putting together. When I dusted upstairs I guess I

sometimes took so long Mother said she thought I was just walking around reading.

I went to high school in Consort, which was seven miles from our home. When my sister went we drove with a horse and buggy, but when she finished I rode horseback. During the coldest part of the winter I boarded in town.

After finishing high school I attended Camrose Normal School in 1924. My teaching career began in 1925 at "Birdsview", a country school south of Czar. I taught in four other country schools "Silver Beach", north of Consort, near Goose Berry Lake; "Two Valley View", near the badlands, in the Drumheller Area, "Albert", north of Irma, and "Metropolitan", south of Jarrow.

It was after I had taught a year at Metropolitan that I was married in 1937. I had enjoyed teaching, even with all the grades. I still remember how much fun it was preparing the Christmas programs. When I quit teaching I didn't plan to ever teach again. It was after we had moved to Irma from the farm in 1952 and I was asked to substitute in the grade three room that I started teaching again. I taught a year and a half in the grade three class, and was then transferred to the grade six class where I continued teaching until I retired in 1972.

Since retiring my sister and I have taken a few trips, some by bus, some by plane and some a combination of both. I've also enjoyed trips with my daughters and their families. Most of my trips now are by plane to visit my daughter, Marjory in Victoria.

My main hobbies are reading, crocheting, making hooked rugs and doing other hand work.

I feel very fortunate to be living next door to my daughter Carol and family in Irma, and to have my sister just across the street in Chacutenah Manor.



Bill Matthews family, Bill, Marjory, Carol and Gertrude.



William Matthews

McCRACKEN

A McCracken family settled on the SE 6-45-8 in the early times. Their home had a well built stone basement which stood long after the house was moved. Orville Chase purchased the land and after his death Mildred sold it to Harry Long in 1945. Harry has since had the basement demolished to prevent cattle falling into it.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN McCREADIE

by Elizabeth Prior

My mother and father sailed from Glasgow, Scotland, for Canada on June 5th, 1914. They landed a week later and then travelled west by C.P.R.

We, (Mother, Dad, Jim, my brother and myself) landed in Hardisty on the 20th of June, just a short time before World War I broke out August 4th, 1914. We then took a livery team to Irma (cost \$7.00), landed in Irma and no one to meet us. By chance Abel Oldham, a brother-in-law of Jack Sawdon's brought us out by team and democrat fourteen miles to the Sawdon's farm which is now owned by Lawrence Savage.

There we learned a new way of life. I can assure you it was very different, especially the winters, than the folks had been used to. Mother and Dad never made much money in Canada, but they made a wealth of friends. Later they lived on the Howie Wood's farm which had been willed to Mother and me.

Before coming to Canada, Dad was a Boer War Veteran and later in the police force in London, England. He was also a guard at Buckingham Palace for some time.

Among their neighbors were Sawdons, Prossers, Priors, Hauns, Oldhams, Tom Slipper, Howie Woods, Grover Arnolds, Fords, News, Daltons, Marshalls, Thomsons, Coultmans, Jones, Connolleys and Whitelys.

Mrs. McCreadie died in Mannville Hospital of a heart attack in 1938 at the age of 74. Mr. McCreadie lived with Erle and Lizzie for six years when he passed away at the age of 79 years of a heart attack. Both the McCreadies are buried in Irma cemetery.

MAC McDERMOT

From memory of Ernie Rae

Mr. McDermot and his three sons, Archie, Sydney and Alex came from Scotland and homesteaded on the land where Ronnie Larson lives. It is felt that his wife was not living at this time as she was never here. All three boys were veterans of the First World War. They stayed long enough to prove up the land and get the patent. They later moved to Edmonton where Archie and Sydney ran a battery shop. Alex was a druggist.

Having a Ball

No, women's work is never done,
For there's still a battle to be won —
Against the men who work away
And come home thinking you've played today.



Elizabeth, John and Margaret McCreadie.

MR. AND MRS. EDWARD T. McDOWELL

Edward Thomas McDowell was born in Unionwell, Ontario in 1882. He came to Alberta in 1907 taking a homestead, the N.E. of 30-45-9. When the townsite of Irma was chosen in 1908 he was appointed agent for the lots when the site was surveyed in the fall of 1908. He went into the implement business along with Jack Tate as well as real estate and insurance. In 1913 he married Florence McGregor.

Mrs. Edward McDowell was born in Middlesex County, Ontario, a daughter of James and Helen McGregor. She, Florence, attended McGregor London Normal College and taught in Ontario before coming to Alberta. She kept house in Irma for her brother, Dr. Murray McGregor, for several years before marrying. One child, Helen, was born to the McDowells. The Ed McDowells first lived in a small house close to where the arena now stands. While here and afterwards Florence McDowell cared for an invalid sister, Helen McGregor, as long as she lived. She was the victim of polio and she spent her years confined to a chair or bed. While she was mentally alert her one side was paralyzed and her speech was affected. Her vocabulary was "Yes, No" and

“Helen” and it must have been very frustrating when she tried so hard to make someone understand her. She seemed so patient and cheerful and the light of her life was her niece, Helen McDowell. Ed McDowell was very good with her and took responsibility for part of her care when Mrs. McDowell was absent.

About 1921 the Alma Mater School needed a teacher so Mrs. McDowell applied and was given the position. She was a very dedicated teacher and very thorough as many of her former pupils can attest. She commuted from Irma during spring and fall as her husband drove her out in the morning and returned for her after school. In the winter she boarded in the district and the last few years had a shack in the school yard to live in during the week always returning home for the weekend. During the week, when she was away, Mrs. Billy Milburn was hired to do the housekeeping and care for her sister, coming in the morning and returning home at night, and Ed McDowell took over for the night.

Mrs. McDowell taught for a number of years at Alma Mater. During this time the McDowells bought the Dixon house north on main street, better known to some as the Masson house and now owned and occupied by the Ken Cornetts. One winter Jean McLean (Saville) and Orril Fischer (Darling) boarded there during the week while going to high school. Later Mrs. McDowell taught in the Irma Elementary School for a few years.

Ed McDowell continued in his business until his death at his home in 1930. The funeral was conducted by the I.O.O.F. at the family residence.

After her husband's death Mrs. McDowell and her daughter moved from Irma to make their home in Edmonton where Helen continued her education. In 1951 she accompanied her daughter to Ontario. During the last five years of her life she lived with her daughter in the Maritimes passing away in Halifax. She is survived by her daughter, Helen.

It is of interest to some that some years ago Helen McDowell was in Edmonton during the summer to teach a University course and a student from Irma who had formerly known her met up with her.



R.J. Tate and Mrs. Ed McDowell, 1909.

HADDON McELROY FAMILY

by May McElroy

Haddon was born in Calgary, and lived his boyhood years on his father's farm at Chestermere Lake, a few miles east of the city. He was one of ten children and plus the parents; you can imagine the wall-to-wall beds each night, as they lived in a small house consisting of kitchen, living room and two bedrooms. Haddon's father had homesteaded here in 1898. Mr. McElroy moved briefly to Medicine Hat where he married Haddon's mother, but soon moved back to the homestead.

Haddon and all of his brothers and sisters attended Delaware School, usually riding horseback. Some of his sisters went to High School in Calgary, but all of the boys had had enough of school they thought, when they completed Grade nine at Delaware.

Haddon joined the R.C.A.F. in 1942 and went overseas. His first posting was to London where he served as L.A.C. in the Post Office at the R.C.A.F. Base there. After a few months in the London blackouts, he was re-posted in the same capacity to Thirsk, Yorkshire, where he remained until the war's end in wartime haunts, and had several wonderful days doing so.

Haddon returned to Canada at the war's end and worked for his father and several other community farmers. In 1948 he went to Blaimore where he worked for three years in the coal mines.

Haddon and May were married October 24th, 1951, in Calgary. May was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gilbart of Calgary. She was born at Dalroy, Alberta, where her father was agent for the U.G.G.



Haddon McElroy family, 1979 - Haddon, May, Tom, Pam and Kathy.

elevators for many years. The family moved to Calgary when May was in her early teens. She finished High School there, and in 1942, she began employment, which lasted eight years, at A.G.T. as a long distance operator. Then early in 1951, she went to work for Shell Oil in Calgary as receptionist, until she and Haddon were married that fall. Their wedding was during what should have been harvest time, but everyone who had been invited was able to attend because of the early winter with much snow, cold and blizzards. That fall's crop wasn't harvested till the next spring, but the harvest was hardly worth the effort and expense because millions of very fat mice had eaten most of the grain, much of which was in swaths.

The McElroy's have lived at Calgary, Chestermere Lake, and most recently at Cheadle, twenty-five miles east of Calgary, until coming to Irma in the late fall of 1978. They bought a quarter section here and Haddon has a small herd of Purebred Red Angus cattle. As well, a good part of each spring and summer is taken up raising broilers for family and friends.

The McElroy's have had a number of foster children in the last twelve years, sometimes whole families of three and four children. Their present foster child is ten year-old Billie Rae McCarnan. They have three children of their own, all married. The eldest, Thomas Milton, Calgary, owns a small independent propane business (Tomic, Ltd.), and also spends each spring and fall in the Donalda area, applying anhydrous ammonia, contracting this part of his business from the Alberta Wheat Pool there. Tom and Bev have two children. Pamela Joan is married to John Nelson, they have one child and live at Camrose. Kathleen Grace lives in Calgary with her husband, Larry Miazga, a city policeman. They have one child as well.

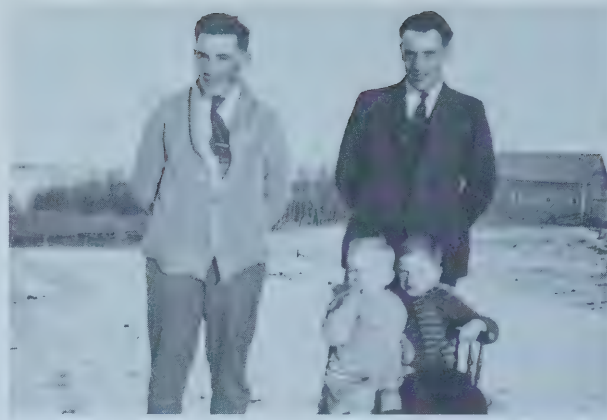
Haddon and May enjoy living in the hills and the bush, so much different from the flat, bald-headed prairie where they both were born, grew up, and raised their family.

JACK AND LILLIAN McFADDEN

Jack McFadden was born in County Ulster, Northern Ireland, in 1908. In 1928 he came to Canada and worked for Armitages at Sedgewick until he moved to the Irma district. In 1934 he bought his farm on the west side of Section 34.

Lillian Croft came from Dover, England, in the spring of 1948. For a time she worked for Mrs. Murphy in the coffeeshop until it was destroyed by fire. On June 1st, 1949, Lillian married Jack McFadden and they lived on their farm in the Ross school district. Lillian became a victim of cancer and passed away on December 5th, 1960.

Jack continued to live on his farm until 1970 when his house burned down. He then moved into the Emil Wirth house, on land now owned by Albert Glasgow. Jack died a few months later.



Jack McFadden, Bob Dempsey, Eddie and Albert Jackson (in chair).



Lillian McFadden on her birthday.

R.C. McFARLAND FAMILY

*written by Laurie Anne Erickson
told by J. Ross McFarland*

Ross Clemens McFarland was born in 1889 at Port Severn, Ontario where his father, Joseph McFarland was a Scaler for the Georgian Bay Lumber Co. In 1890, Ross and his family moved to Queensville, Ontario where his father opened a country general store, and in 1912 Ross C. left home and moved west to Edmonton where he worked in a Men's Wear Store. Joseph McFarland, and his wife Bessie with the rest of their family, Norah, Mary and Douglas followed soon after and came to Edmonton in 1913.

Upon arriving in Edmonton, they met Mr. I. Skiles in their hotel lobby. Discovering they shared the same business interests, a partnership of J.C. McFarland & Co. was established and a general store was opened on Namao Avenue (118 Ave. and 93 St.)

World War I changed everyone's lives including the McFarlands'. When it was over, money was tight and jobs were hard to find. Through one of their wholesalers, Mr. Skiles and Mr. Joseph McFarland learned that Irma needed a store. So in August 1919, J.C. McFarland and Co. opened its doors to serve the people of Irma.

During this time Ross Clemens had enlisted in the Armed Forces and was serving his country. In 1919 Joseph McFarland passed away and Ross returned home to resume the partnership with Mr. Skiles which prospered until Mr. Skiles retired due to ill health in 1933.

Even though Ross was busy running the store, he still found some time for socializing. He caught wind that a pretty dark haired girl from Kansas, Anna Cordelia Riley, had moved with her family from Castor, Alberta to a farm south of Irma, (present day Jimmy Voros farm). With no mode of transportation of his own, Ross would hire a horse and buggy from the local livery stable to do his courting. There were many hours spent travelling to and from Irma contemplating marriage.

On September 28, 1921, Ross and Anna were married on the Riley farm. To this union, three children were born. Marjorie, Ross and Murray. Murray passed away in 1938 at the tender age of nine.

Marjorie married Herbert Lewis in January, 1949 and one daughter Deborah was born to this couple. Debbie is married to Daniel David from Tofino, B.C. and they have two chosen children, Michael and Norma. Herbert passed away suddenly in 1973 and Marjorie, after a life-long struggle with Multiple Sclerosis passed away in February, 1980.

Ross married Ethel Murphy of Wembley, Alberta in August, 1949. To this union, four children were born. Twins, Wendy and Wanda were born prematurely in December, 1953 and were with us to love only three short days before our Lord called them home. "Budded on Earth, to Blossom in Heaven".

Karen Lynn was born in September, 1951, an anniversary gift for Grandpa and Grandma. Lynn is now married to Les Henderson from Grand Forks, B.C. and they have two children, Shawn and Melanie. Prince George, B.C. is their home, where Les is Assistant Manager of an Overwaitea Food Store and Lynn is a Registered Nurse at the Prince George Regional Hospital.

Laurie Anne, born in 1957, married a local boy, Melvin Erickson, son of Ralph and Lilly Erickson. They have three children, Wendy, Ginger and Kent. They now farm and live on the Oscar Likness (former Lisson) place.

Ross Clemens McFarland passed away in 1972 and Anna passed away in 1976. With them went many memories and tales of the pioneer's in Irma. How I wish I would have taken more time to listen and record some of the tales they told!



Anna; Ross Senior, holding Murray, Marjorie and Ross, Junior about 1930.



Mary McFarlad, Joseph McFarland, Norah McFarland, Ross C. McFarland.



Mr. H. Black, Ross McFarland, Senior, and Mr. S. Brown.

I remember so well Grandpa telling the tale about a lady bringing her butter into town to trade for someone else's butter because a mouse had fallen into her cream. She said "You know, Mr. McFarland, what they don't know won't hurt them". With a twinkle in his eye, Mr. McFarland went to the back of the store, returned with the *same* butter, wrapped it for her, and as she was leaving he thought to himself, "What she doesn't know won't hurt her!"

Going to town was a rare occasion in the early days. Not like today when sometimes we're in town twice a day. Often the men would go to town to do the business and the women would stay at home to tend the children and the chores. So a carefully detailed grocery list had to be written so that the men could pick up the supplies. Grandpa kept one of these such lists in the store for many years and it read something like this:

20 lbs. flour
5 lbs. salt
5 tins snuff
10 lbs. sugar

1 girdle - just a cheap one - to keep my socks up and my gut in.

Many a hardship the people of the early days endured. We have so much to learn from them, for the trials today would be easier, if we had a pioneer's sense of humour, the same strong will and the gentle spirit to carry us through.

Mr. McFarland helped many an early settler in many ways. Someone asked why there was a Roman Catholic priest at an old Presbyterian's funeral. The answer was "That priest would have starved to death if it hadn't have been for Mr. McFarland". The deeds of this man, throughout the history of Irma, echo the Golden Rule by which he moulded his life.



Ross & Ethel McFarland and family: Laurie Anne & Melvin Erickson, Ethel; Ross; Les & Lynn Henderson.



Ross & Ethel McFarland's grandchildren: Melanie Henderson, Shawn Henderson, Wendy Erickson, Kent Erickson, and Ginger Erickson.

HUGH McGUIRE

Hugh McGuire was born March 16, 1891 at Whiteburn, Queen's County, Nova Scotia. He came to farm north of Jarrow in 1916. He farmed for awhile with his sister and brother-in-law John Theroux. When they left the district Hugh continued to farm on his own. He was a hard worker and was usually the first on the land in the spring.

Hugh, or Hood as he was known by his many friends and neighbors, took an active part in community affairs and was always willing to lend a helping hand to all his neighbors.

Hood passed away on November 5, 1952. He was sadly missed by all who knew him.



Hugh McGuire, Nan Kennedy, Elsie Bridgeman.

JIM McILROY

Jim McIlroy homesteaded S.W.1/4 6-46-8-W4th in early times. He was a carpenter and appeared to be fairly well educated. Jim was an accomplished violinist. In the early twenties his house burned down. He replaced it with a one-roomed shack. Jim kept several Indian ponies which ran on the open range. He died in 1934 or 1935.

ALEXANDER G. McKAY

by Maude (Smallwood) Mills

Alexander G. McKay was a grandfather anyone would have loved. His wife died in New Brunswick at an early age and grandfather raised a family of five, with the help of a few relatives. He moved to Irma with his two sons, Cliff and Jack, and settled on the McKay farm two miles south of the town. To us he was Pa, and our best friend.

He got work with the C.N.R. and was pump man at Philips water tank. He lived there in a small shack and how we loved it when our mother would take us to visit him for several days so she could cook and do some housework for him. He made close friends in Philips and was on his way to visit the Brickmans' when he died at the Irma station in 1920.

CLIFFORD McKAY FAMILY

Joseph Clifford McKay, known as Cliff McKay, was born January 21st, 1880 at South Nelson, New Brunswick. He came west in the summer of 1909 and homesteaded on the north bank of the Gratton Coulee, N.E. 16-45-9-W4th, two miles south of Irma. Cliff bought canvas, and the wife of his cousin, William D. McKay, a carpenter, who was building houses in the growing town of Wainwright, sewed him a tent. Cliff hauled lumber from Hardisty and when the house was ready that fall, his father, sister and aunt came to Irma. They had loaded a boxcar with settler's effects and these included their horse, Rhoda. Cliff's father cared for the horse on the trip west, while the ladies came on a passenger train.

In the earlier years Cliff worked on the railroad during

the off seasons as a brakeman to become better established in farming. He was mechanically inclined and in 1917 he bought a threshing machine and did a lot of custom threshing throughout the district.

As a matter of record, this family came from Harcourt, New Brunswick. The father, Alexander McKay, who had been widowed when the children were small, is buried in the Irma cemetery. Beside him is his son John, who was killed in 1912, when, as a railroader, his foot was caught in a switch. In the same plot is Sophia Bateman, the maternal aunt who came with them in 1909. Cliff's sister Mildred, who subsequently became Mrs. George Tripp, and Margaret, Mrs. R.D. Smallwood, came to Irma in 1909 and 1910 respectively. Cliff's grandfather had been a carpenter who had come to New Brunswick from Scotland some time in the 1800's.

In 1921 Cliff McKay married Helena Flett, who was born September 20th, 1888 at Harcourt, New Brunswick. She received her education in New Brunswick and became a teacher. Helena taught several years before coming west in 1914 to Fort McLeod, Alberta.

Her stories of life in this frontier town always interested her family. These stories included the account of a public hanging. The gallows was constructed on the main street and the barbarism involved precipitated her decision to move elsewhere. She moved to Edmonton and taught at the Alex Taylor School the six years before her marriage to Cliff McKay.

The Fletts and the McKays had known each other in New Brunswick and when a school was being established in Irma in 1910, Marguerite Flett, identical twin to Helena, was hired as the first teacher. As she was unable to come for the opening August 1st, another sister, Ursula, who was teaching at Innisfail, agreed to come for the first month, as her own school did not open until September. Later, Sarah Saunders, a cousin of the Flett girls, came and taught in Irma.

Cliff and Helena, together, planted many trees around their farmstead. She always maintained these trees would stand as her monument long after she passed away. To this union three children, Donald, Susan and Jack, were born. The children will be remembered by the old timers for going to school in the village of Irma with their little red cart which their father made from an old buggy and which was pulled by their Shetland pony.

Cliff was a member of the Oddfellows Lodge and both he and Helena belonged to the Rebecca Lodge. Helena also was active in the Ladies' Aid of the United Church.

At Easter of 1937, Cliff became a victim of pneumonia and passed away suddenly. That fall the new antibiotic drugs became available, which have so decreased death from that illness. Helena and family continued on with the farm with much determination despite the depression and the war.

In 1952 Helena and boys moved to the village of Irma, but continued farming. After enjoying town life for twenty-three years, Helena took up residence in the Battle River Lodge at Wainwright and lived there four and one-half years. After failing health she was moved to the Wainwright Auxiliary Hospital, where she resided until her death on August 31st, 1983, at the age of ninety-three years.



Cliff McKay Family - 1933. Left to Right: Donald, Mrs. Helena McKay, Susie, Cliff McKay, son Jack.

After Helena moved to Wainwright, Donald continued farming and being active in curling and other community activities. In 1973 he married Dorie Cosman of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

They built a new home in 1975 on the old farmstead and moved back to the banks of the coulee where the original home had been.

Susan left the district in 1942 after high school and has spent much of her life in Eastern Canada and Manitoba. She eventually obtained her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Toronto and presently works in that field in Winnipeg.

Don and Jack farmed together for several years and Jack eventually started on his own by renting and acquiring more land. In 1959 he bought land southwest of Irma, formerly owned by Fred Knudson, and in 1971 a quarter four miles south of Irma, formerly owned by J. Russell.

Jack married Vera Hammer in November, 1960, who was employed as a stenographer in the City of Edmonton. She was raised on a farm southeast of Leduc, Alberta. Jack and Vera started to build a house in 1963 on the N.W. 22-45-9-W4th, one mile south of Irma, which Jack purchased in earlier years, and continued to build up the farmstead. This land Mrs. J. Allen owned at that time and was formerly homesteaded by J.W. Graydon.

A daughter Mona, was born to them on June 13th, 1965. She attended school in Irma, graduated in June, 1983, with honors, and is presently enrolled at Camrose Lutheran College, taking a Business Administration Course.



Donald McKay, his mother Helena McKay, and Donald's wife Dorie.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

ELLINA McKEE FAMILY

by Ellina McKee

Art and I were both raised in the Thorhild, Abee, district. We got our education in a one-room country schoolhouse. Art went to school at Mapova. The name of the school I attended was Wisla, which later burnt down and the children were bussed into Newbrook.

Art joined the army in November of 1943. He got some of his basic training with the Calgary Highlanders in Calgary and Beaverlodge, Alberta.

In May of 1944 he left Canada for overseas where he served in France and Germany. He returned home in June, 1946 and spent approximately six months at Government House in Edmonton, due to injuries received while in action. Government House was used at that time for injured war veterans.

We were united in marriage in 1946, after which we took up residence in Edmonton for nine years. The first year of our marriage Art worked at a brickyard northwest of the city during summer months.

In winter he worked at the Army and Navy Store which was on 101st Street and 102nd Avenue at that time. He cleared around twenty-two dollars a week in wages. We were able to see a show in those days for twenty-five cents. he started working as a steamfitter and plumber later.

While living in Edmonton we had two children, David in 1948 and Barry in 1952.

We purchased the former Olaf Lovig homestead located on N.W. 23-45-10-W4th in the Coal Springs district.

In April of 1955 we moved onto our so-called farm. This was quite a change for us after leaving a new home in Edmonton and coming to a run-down house with no power, wood heating and no decent road leading to it.



Ellina and Art McKee.

Art started his plumbing in Irma and district almost immediately. The first job he did was for Don McKay in the village of Irma. From then on Don and Art did quite a few homes in the village, as plumbing was just introduced into Irma around that time.

That summer my brother brought us a milk cow and calf to go along with the chickens and turkeys I had, so our farm life had started.

The winter of 1955 set in very early and we were not prepared for such an early cold winter. In those days they didn't have the good equipment for plowing roads, so we were snowed in by November 1st. Most of that winter the only way out was through the fields across the coulee by Fuders and out onto the highway. We didn't get our wood up before winter set in and coal had to be gotten from Forestburg. So by the time roads were open our extra wood was gone. Art and our neighbor went for coal. While they were gone David and I went on top of drifts to take rails off our wooden fence and cut them up for firewood to keep from freezing. Our water pails would be frozen in the kitchen in the morning even with our coal and wood kitchen range going all night.

David went to school in Irma. He had to walk a good half mile to catch the school bus. Our dog always went with him and returned when the bus was gone, so I always knew he had gotten on safely.

In April of 1956, we had another son, Kenneth Brian. We had a few more head of cattle by now. We used to milk around twelve to sixteen cows and ship cream to Sedgewick.

In June, 1958, we were blessed with another bundle, Kelvin James. While in hospital you can imagine my joy when Art announced he had applied for the power, which was put in that fall. Now I was able to get a pail of water whenever needed without fighting with the gas motor. With Art gone with his plumbing business, looking after the home chores was my job. By now we had an oil heater in our front room which made the house a lot more comfortable.

We had more land cleared and farmed a few more acres. In October of 1961 we were blessed once again with another son, William Bradley.

In July of 1963, Art passed away in an accident.

David finished high school in Irma, and continued in his father's trade to become a plumber, working in Wainwright at first. He married Shirley Hutchinson of Ranfurly, Alberta, and they have two children, Curtis and Tracey. They moved to Irma where Dave started his own plumbing shop, doing a lot of farm jobs etc. - even mother got her plumbing in. Our house had also been remodeled by now with natural gas heating etc., comforts of home now. After leaving Irma, Dave and family moved to Lethbridge where he was city of Lethbridge plumbing and gas inspector for three years. They took up residence in Red Deer and are still there. He is working as a Provincial Plumbing and Gas Inspector.

Barry left school early and worked in Edmonton in a radiator shop. In 1970 he lost his life in the Battle River.

Kenny also did not finish high school. As soon as he was of age he joined the Navy where he took up cooking. He sailed the ocean far and wide, far as Japan, Hawaii and San Diego.

He married Lynda Seveaney of Victoria, B.C. and they have two girls, Janice and Jamie. They have residence there.

Kelvin took up a trade as Auto Body man. He married Cathy Hnetka of Fort St. John, B.C. and they have two daughters, Christie and Kelly. They lived in Irma for a few years with Kelvin working for Highway Auto Body. At present he makes his home in New Norway and works in Camrose.

Brad lived at home till his marriage to Lynn Smith of Irma. They also have two children, Jason and Jody. Brad has done different jobs in the Irma area.

In June of 1983 Brad and Lynn moved onto the family farm. I had a home built in Irma on 49th Street and am living there at present and enjoying it.



McKee Boys: David, Kelvin, Kenneth, and Brad.

DON MCKILLOP

Don McKillop, a relative of Orville Chase, was one of the earliest settlers in Strawberry Plains district. He homesteaded on SW 6-45-8 now owned by Harry Long. A nephew, Murray McKillop, came from the States and lived with his uncle while attending Strawberry Plains school.

One day Frank Matheson and Murray were shooting gophers with a twenty-two. They laid the gun on the ground and the dog stepped on the trigger shooting Murray in the leg.

Don McKillop was a great entertainer. He kept the threshing crew in stitches making meal times pass quickly.

If the price of milk gets any higher cows will be holy here, too.

MRS. J. C. McLEAN AND MRS. W. H. PARSONS

My father's folk had come from Ireland and settled on land near Owen Sound, Ontario, where my father Samuel F. McCauley, had been born. After leaving the home farm, he had travelled around, working in the Ontario woods, and riding the logs in the springtime, when the rivers ran high and fast, carrying the logs to the mill. I have also heard him tell of having gone to the West Coast and being down in 'Frisco' where every man packed a gun. When the C.P.R. was being built, my father was working on the part along the north shore of Georgian Bay. By this time he was married and my mother used to tell us how fearful she was at times, especially when his crew had been drinking. They were Finlanders and if they had anything to drink, could be wild and tough. She thought my father should carry a weapon, as some did, but he never resorted to that. He would walk into the bunkhouse and immediately things calmed down. When I was older I, too, learned the power of that eye, but he was their friend and they all knew it.

My mother's maiden name had been Catherine Mclean, the same name I was to have when I married. Her family was from Scotland and their home was on a farm near Collingwood. In fact, my mother learned English when she went to school, as at home Gaelic was the language spoken. My parents were married in 1881 and my oldest brother, Daniel, was born in January, 1883, while they lived near Georgian Bay.

In 1884 my parents moved to a small farm near Burks' Falls, in Parry Sound, Ontario. In fact, my father thought this land would be in the vicinity of the townsite. However the town of Burks' Falls was placed a few miles away, with the result that my parents made the farm their home. On April 30th, 1885 my sister, Mary, was born there. Then in June, 1887 I came along. Another sister Lucinda, was born April 9th, 1889 and another brother, whom we called "Wee Sammy" was born on June 18th, 1891.

Sometime in April of 1892 my father decided they should make a move to the West with the result that some time that month we all boarded a train headed for Edmonton. I remember it was a Colonist car, with slatted seats and my mother had to bring enough bedding, also enough food to last us on the journey.

Whether they could buy more on the way I do not remember. She also had made curtains to give us some privacy and I do remember that after we reached Edmonton, my sister Mary and I both had dresses made from the material, white with roses. I do not remember too much about the train trip, except that one day the Porter gave my sister Mary a banana. None of us knew what it was so she just played with it, with the result that when the Porter came through next time, he took it away from her saying "Well, if you don't want to eat it, I will". Poor Mary, she didn't even know it was something to eat and it was many years before she saw another. Also I remember seeing my first Indians when the train stopped at Moose Jaw. They got on the train to sell pairs of polished buffalo horns, fastened to a board and put together with bits of bright red carpet. We children



Colin and Kate McLean and Marney Patterson about 1937.

thought them beautiful, and were much disappointed when our father did not buy one. Now I realize that many things were needed much worse than the buffalo horns. It takes the years to make one think of the practical things.

When we reached Calgary, we had to wait over as only two trains went north in a week to South Edmonton. During our stay in Calgary I developed a toothache so my father went out to see if there was a dentist in the town. Well, he didn't find a dentist, but never daunted, he came back with a veterinarian. They sat me up on a pile of bedding and he pulled my tooth. There is a little sequel to that. After we were in Edmonton a few years we had acquired a cow and she, eventually, had a calf. This calf became sick and my father went downtown, this time looking for a veterinarian. Who should he come back with but the same man who had pulled my tooth a few years earlier in Calgary. Well, all I can say is that I must have had more stamina than that calf, for it died.

I'm getting ahead of myself, when a train finally set out for Edmonton, we were aboard. However the ice in the Saskatchewan was just breaking up so it was impossible for us to get to North Edmonton. I do not remember how long we stayed on the South Side, but one day my father, with some other men, blasted a landing place on both sides of the river. My mother and we children were taken to the river, loaded into a rowboat and so crossed the river up at Walter's crossing.

I knew my mother was worried and some years after I asked her about it. "Well", she said, "You did not notice those huge chunks of ice rolling down the river. If any one of them had hit our boat it would have been the last of all of us".

At that time my father had two brothers and a sister living in Edmonton. His youngest brother, Uncle Frank, met us when we landed. Then Uncle Matt came along. That was the year 1892. Edmonton had been given town status and my Uncle Matthew McCauley was its first mayor. His wife had been ill and was in Winnipeg with parents, so we were taken to my Aunt Ellen's home. Ellen, Mrs. Charlie Sandison, was father's sister. This was in the old Bulletin office situated a bit east of the present MacDonald Hotel. When I saw this building up at the Old Fort recently, I did wonder how we all crammed into it. However, we did not stay long as my

father got work driving the Lower Ferry so we moved down by the river into a small two-roomed place. There were two ferries, the Upper Ferry was run by John Walters about 8th Street and the Lower Ferry, owned by Wm. Humberstone, was about where the old Low Level bridge is today. Mr. Humberstone was also a coal miner and he delivered his coal in a Red River cart, hauled by an ox.

We only spent one summer at the river but I remember it as one of the best. Several men made their living washing gold and it was fun to watch them as they shovelled the rough gravel, etc. into a rough looking box. This box had a piece of woollen blanket on the bottom. They would dip water with a huge dipper, wash all the rough stuff out of the box, and when it was all empty one could see little gold specks shining all over the blanket. Then they would put a few drops of quicksilver on the blanket, tilt the box about, with the result that the gold was all gathered into a nugget.

Also that summer I started school. Edmonton had built its first school in 1881. By 1892 there were three school rooms, joined together, and the beginners went to the oldest room. And so I commenced my schooling in the first school built in Alberta. This school was situated where the brick MacKay Avenue School stands today on the Southwest corner of 104th Street and 99th Avenue.

That fall, at the river was a very sad time as the baby, then a little over a year old, died. We were a sad family for we all loved him so very much.

That fall, 1892, we moved up the hill and lived in a loghouse just where the MacDonald stands today. We lived there about a year, then moved to a house on the corner of what is now 100th Street and 102nd Avenue. This corner is now occupied by the Land Titles Office. My father had considered another lot just cornering the Hudson Bay store on 103rd Street and Jasper Avenue, but decided on this one as it was not so far out in the bush.

On July 5th, 1895, my brother, Matthew McCauley was born. When he started school the teacher did not understand when he said his name was Matt, she asked "Pat?". He liked that so from then on he answered to Pat. Then in September 6th, 1899, another brother, James Hector, was born. My last brother arrived on May 16th, 1902, William Fred.

My father died in August, 1903, a young man, still in his forties, but he had seen much of the new west ere that. The country he loved! He had built up a good business as a contractor and house mover. At that time I don't think anyone ever tore anything down. They just moved it to another place. We still have several pictures of the interesting and difficult work he did.

In the spring of 1903 my sister Mary, went to work in the office of the Hudson Bay Store, the only girl on the staff. The following year I left high school to take a business course at Alberta College. It had opened the year before over the Johnstone Walker Store. Now it was in the Masonic Building on 102nd Street just south of Jasper. Later in the fall of that year we were all moved over to 1st Street where the first Alberta College building had been opened. In the spring of 1905 I had finished my course and went to work as secretary in the old law firm

of Taylor, Boyle and Garipey. Their office was on the second floor of the Garipey Block on the northwest corner of what is now 100th Street and Jasper Avenue.

In 1905 Alberta was made a Province. Up to that time it had been in the N.W.T. Edmonton was made the capital and the first two legislatures met in the assembly room of the MacKay Avenue school. In the fall of 1906 I left the law office and went to work for the members of the Legislature, this being the second session. When it adjourned I went into the Surveys Branch of the Department of Public Works.

At that time the Government offices were in the old Empire Block on the corner of 1st Street and Jasper. Later the offices were moved down to the foot of 106th Street, on the west side of the street facing north. A small Parliament Building was built back of the office building, and backing to the river. Whenever the House met I would work out there and when it adjourned, then back to the Survey's Department.

These were busy summers for the surveyors and their crews as many folk were coming into the country to homestead. For this reason roads must be surveyed, diversions made, bridges built, etc. There would be six or seven surveyors, each with their crew of men, working all through the summer months. This also meant work in the office, getting out letters, maps, etc.

The Legislature had met early in the year of 1910 when I was working there too. However when they decided to meet again in May, I had to resign as I had a much more important line of work in view, I was to be married.

Colin McLean had been born in Hampton, Ontario April 25th, 1883. His family moved to Bowmanville, Ontario about four years later, where he had his schooling and where his first work was with the Goodyear Company. He had two sisters, both older than he, Lily, who married Frank Cryderman and remained in Bowmanville and Jen, who married Ed. Higginbotham. He was a druggist and they came west and opened a drugstore in Calgary, later retiring first to Nelson, then Vancouver.

When Colin came to Edmonton in the spring of 1906, he got work in the grocery department of the Hudson Bay. Naturally I met up with him and by the fall of that year we were engaged. That winter Colin went back to Bowmanville as his mother was ill. She passed away and he came back to Edmonton in the spring of 1907. By now all he wanted to do was to homestead. In fact the town was filled with young men from all parts of the east who had come out with the same purpose in mind.

The result was that after much searching, he decided to file on land at Irma. Here there was much more open land, it would make for good pasture and also the land could be got under cultivation without all the back-breaking work of clearing it. Of course there were some bluffs, but not as heavy as in other places.

By this time a friend, Donald S. McCready (later Jasper's first Station Master) had come from Ontario with the same urge to go homesteading. Colin and he decided to pool their funds, buy their outfits together, and work together for the first few years. This they did with the result that in the spring of 1908, they left Edmonton, headed for Irma, with two outfits. It was

springtime, no roads and many wet spots through the Beaver Hills. It took them a good ten days to get to Tofield and another week to reach the homestead. Colin's father, James McLean from Bowmanville, was also filing. Colin's quarter was N.W.1/4 20-46-8-W4th. His father's was the S.W.1/4 32-46-8-W4th. They had intended to live on Colin's quarter but the Homestead Inspector happened along and he informed them that a son could live with the father and prove up but not the father with the son. The result was that during that summer they built a small three room place on the S.W. 32-46-8-W4th. Donald McCready's quarter was the S.E.1/4 4-47-8-W4th.

In the summer of 1908 Colin's father, his sister Jen, and his uncle Frank Cole, came out from the east. Colin and Don met them at Mannville and they drove in the red democrat down to Colin's place. However, during the men's absence a fierce hailstorm had gone through, with the result that the two tents were down, everything wet, and the tents badly torn. What a reception for Eastern folk! One thing was in their favour, Uncle Frank had a tailor shop in Toronto. So they borrowed Mrs. Tole's sewing machine, set it up on the open prairie, and the man from Toronto mended the tents. Uncle Frank did not stay too long as he had to be back at his business, but the other two stayed until the fall. Jen took on the job of cooking and caring for the men. How she managed was a marvel but to her it was a great new experience. In the fall the men shipped their horses, etc. back to Edmonton, via Mannville. In the city Jen got work as a bookkeeper and the men hauled coal from down river, delivering it wherever they could get an order - long cold days.

That winter, Don's mother, Mrs. McCready, came to Edmonton and kept house for the two men. Then in springtime, when they shipped back to Mannville, then to the homestead, she went along.

As I said a small house had been built on Mr. McLean's quarter. That summer, when we girls who worked in the city had our holidays, we went down to the homestead. Colin met us in Mannville at 2:00 a.m., we all piled into the red democrat and headed for the homestead. Colin's sister Jen, my sister Cindy, a friend Muriel Batstone and myself made up the bunch. What a time we had! A mile to the west two other unmarried girls lived, Mary and Mabel Elliott. The country was full of bachelors, one on every available quarter section. If one had been looking for a man it would have been the best of hunting grounds. One evening we had a party, asking all within reach. The small house was indeed crowded and we all had a wonderful time. One decision came out of that. The guests decided I was not the girl to whom Colin was engaged, as we had not been together all evening. They had decided that my friend Muriel was the one.

That summer Don and Colin dissolved their partnership. Before coming west Don had worked with the railway in Northern Ontario, so now he was to be Irma's first Station Master for the new Grand Trunk Railway coming to Irma. That fall it had reached Irma and Don and his mother were installed in a freight car, drawn up on a siding, just south of the Imperial Lumber Company. One end was the office and the other their living quarters. That fall Colin came back to the City, but not bringing

his horses, and found work for the winter. Then back to the homestead again in the spring of 1910.

On the 12th of April we were married and went directly to the homestead. It had been a bit difficult to arrange a time with the result that we were married at five-thirty in the morning. I'm sure that set a record. The trouble was that only two trains a week came in over the Grand Trunk, one early in the week and the other at the end of the week. By now Colin had some cattle, etc. and could not leave things for too long. His friend, Neil McMillan had been good enough to come and stay for a few days but he too had work to do. So Colin came up on Monday, stopped overnight at the Cecil Hotel, then after our early marriage we were able to catch the same train back to Irma. A long time later I realized that I had no sure knowledge that Colin had come to town, for the train got in late and we had no 'phone in the house. Just had faith in him, I guess.

The train left Edmonton about seven-thirty and we did not reach Irma until around five o'clock. The ladies of the town gave us a good shower of rice and a nice welcome. The McCreadys were waiting for us and we had our dinner with them. Then Neil McMillan arrived with the team and red democrat to take us on the balance of our wedding journey. When we arrived at the homestead there was Mary Elliott waiting for us, with another meal ready. At least our good friends did not intend us to go hungry, and what good friends I had in Mary and Mrs. McCready. I should have said that between Irma and the homestead there were no fences, just trails. One thing that I shall never forget were the crocuses, I had never seen them before. The prairie was a great sea of purple and when the slanting rays of the sun touched them they were truly beautiful.

Well, as I told you earlier there were three rooms in the house, two bedrooms and a larger living room. Our furniture was all older stuff brought out the year before from Ontario. In 1909 Colin and his father had unloaded the first carload of settlers effects brought into the village. The only other building on the place was a sod barn for the horses. So that was the reason that a bin had been built in one of the bedrooms and it was filled with oats. There was just room left for a bed. Talk about mice! I have never seen so many and they came in at every opportunity to enjoy the oats. One night I wakened with one running across the bed, just under the pillow. Colin wakened and said, "Oh Kate, go to sleep, there's nothing". He lifted his pillow and a mouse shot across onto the floor. You should have heard what he said then. Well, it was on the floor. It had proved my point, so I went to sleep.

There was no end to the gophers around the place and if by chance the door was left open for a minute, in they would come too. There were not many snakes in the country but one day, just after our noon meal, one came slithering in the front door. There were cracks in the floor and it could have gone to the cellar. Well, Colin jumped, grabbed my new carving knife, a wedding present. I yelled "Not that", and he yelled, "Shutup". His first cross word. Well, what he feared was that it would go into the cellar, then I would refuse to go down for anything.

Little did he know that I had seen many snakes in Edmonton and they were harmless. That hill below the MacDonald used to be honeycombed with holes where they lived and the road alive with garter snakes on a warm day. I wonder what happened to them all now that it is faced with concrete.

Well, to get back to the homestead - I really had a challenge, going from school to college to business. I really never had done any serious housekeeping, perhaps wash dishes, make some beds, dust, etc. That was the extent of my knowledge and I soon found there was much more, especially on a homestead. My first real effort, perhaps, was to bake bread. That was a colossal failure and I can still hear in my mind how it rattled in the back of Mary Elliott's buggy when I gave it to her to feed to their pigs. I had given our dog a piece of it and he didn't even try to eat it. Just dropped it on the grass in front of him and looked at it as if it were one of the seven wonders of the world. But I learned through trial and error. My trouble was I had not kept it warm enough through the night. Churning seemed to come easier. I had watched my mother doing this many years before and I had remembered. Right from the first I could make good butter. Washing was real hard work. There was a hand washer but I lacked the muscle to run it. If Colin was free he would turn it for me. Otherwise I used the washboard. Oh, yes, I also cared for the chickens and I was as terrified of them as some folk are of snakes. However, I soon overcame that. One day, some years later I saw some pigs mauling a hen. Well, I jumped into the pigpen, grabbed the hen and out again with the pigs after me. When I got a look at the hen I figured the kindest thing would be to kill it. My daughter Jean, then about three, was with me. Well, I cut the hen's head off on the wood block and threw the thing on the ground. Just in a second, its muscle spasms lifted it and the thing clutched me around the knees. Well, I started to yell and race around the woodpile, with Jean close behind. Then the thing dropped and I made the mistake of stopping too. Then up it came again, and away I went again, with Jean behind and both yelling. Finally it dropped, we stopped our yelling, but never again did I try to kill a chicken.

Colin's father came out again in June of 1910. That summer they built a log kitchen on the house and also a bank barn for the horses and cattle. It was good to have more room in the house and also to see the animals properly housed in the nice, warm barn.

In the spring of 1911 a big event was in store for us. Jean was born on May 12th. At that time maternity cases did not go to hospitals, so she was born on the homestead. My mother had come down to be with me and that evening Mr. Tole came over while Colin drove for the doctor. That night the doctor was across Gratton Coulee at his future wife's home so Colin had to get Joe Hardy to go with him and show him the trail. He had never been across there. It was early morning when they got back, just in time for the women to let the doctor take over and usher the baby into the world. Jean was a lovely baby. She had quite a lot of fairly long, dark hair. We thought she would have brown eyes, like Colin's, but now they are more a hazel. Of course we were very proud of her and she soon learned just how much she could

have each one of us do for her. If I picked her up she was happy with a bit of rocking. When her father took her she insisted that he sing to her as well. (That she never demanded of me. Likely she had heard me sing.) Then when her grandad took her he must walk the floor and sing. Oh, we had a clever baby.

That fall Grandad McLean went back East and it was his last trip out. In the spring of 1914 he was very ill and Colin went East. His father rallied, but passed away the following September.

Things went smoothly until the fall of 1914. The First Great War was in progress and it was impossible to get help for the harvest. Our brother-in-law, Reuben Patterson, in Edmonton, had horses but his work in the city had shut down to the point that he was even unable to collect pay for the work already done. Colin went to the city to talk with him, with the result that they decided to go into a partnership and work together farming, to solve both their problems. This was a good arrangement and they carried on for the next fourteen years before each decided to manage by himself. In August of 1914 Reuben Patterson and my brother, Pat McCauley, drove from the city, bringing five horses, in time to help with the harvest.

My sister did not come until early in December as her first child, Margaret (Marney as she named herself) was born on November 9th. We all lived together, and while we might have been a bit crowded, with all the adults and children, it was good to have some of our family with us, and we were happy.

In May, 1916, my sister had her second child, William, or Bill as he was soon called. By this time, and even when Marney was born, there were nursing homes in the city for pregnant women. This was where my sister's two children were born. When Marney was a baby she was a real doll, but when my sister came home with her second one, I wondered just what she had done to deserve such a homely child. Well that did not last long; soon he was a beautiful, charming wee boy and today he is a handsome man. Nature has a way of playing tricks on us.

The year 1919 was perhaps one of the worst we ever saw on the farm. It was so dry nothing grew, no garden, no crop. In fact the evergreens that had been planted in our houseyard in 1910, and had grown higher than the fence, all died that year for want of water. That was a sad loss. In the fall not a threshing machine on the place and the men had to buy a huge strawstack, over north of Fabyan. They moved their range stock over there for the winter and each day Colin and Reuben would leave home in the early morning, care for the animals over by the strawstack, then each bring home a huge load to feed the animals in the barn. It was a long, cold job. In the springtime just after they had brought the stock all home, we had a big snowstorm. To enable the cattle to find a bit of grazing they had to build a snowplow and plow out big furrows all over the school section where the animals fed. Even the horses were glad of the help as it was almost too deep for them to paw through.

In August, 1921, Reuben and Cindy had another addition to their family. Catherine Hardy was born. She was a delicate baby but with a mother's loving care she grew into a healthy wee girl. By this time we had two

houses on the farm for Pattersons had moved into their own house, just to the west of our home. In the summer of 1919 their house and the barn had been built. Also we had some work done on our house to make it more comfortable.

But we were still close enough that if the morning had not gone well between Marney and Bill, she could still stop off at our place for her dinner, rather than face the issue at home.

Then in May, 1923, we too had another daughter. This was Mary Elizabeth, Betty to you folk today. We were so happy that all had gone well, and at last we had this lovely baby to love and care for. She was just as fair as Jean had been dark. It was nice to have them looking different, but a bad mistake to have two children with such a difference in their age. They had to grow up before they could really appreciate each other. This was the year, when Jean was just twelve, she had to go to town to board in order to get her High School. Our home school, Education Point, only taught up to Grade 8. She could get Grades 9, 10 and 11 in the Irma High School but when it came to twelve, she went to Edmonton and attended Vic Composite High. She was home with us one year as she was too young to get into Normal. However, the next year she went back to the city and to Normal as she would be eighteen just at the close of the term. When Normal was out, she was fortunate to have the choice of two schools in which to teach. She chose Orbindale and taught in that school until her marriage in 1934. More about that later.



Kate McLean receiving her Secretarial Graduation Diploma after seventy-five years in 1978.

In April of 1926 my sister Cindy died rather suddenly from flu and pneumonia. My mother was at the farm as I had gone to hospital in Edmonton for an operation on my spine. I was home at my sister's in Edmonton on a Saturday and that night we got a 'phone call that she was really ill and a nurse was to come to the farm the next day. My sister caught the same train in the morning but Cindy had died in the night. It was a very hard time for all of us. The funeral was from our home and I was the only member of my family who could not be there. When I was strong enough to come home it was a sad homecoming.

I put Jean through school at such a rate that I did not tell you about her primary years. She went to Education Point. This school had been opened in 1914 with Mr. Edward Costin as Principal. He taught until 1918, when he resigned. The Board hired a Miss Johnstone, for the fall term. That was when Jean started. That was the year of the awful flu epidemic and our young teacher was one of the first to fall prey to it.

A hospital had been set up in the United Church, at that time Methodist, in Irma, with a nurse in charge. Our doctor at that time was Dr. Murray McGregor. Miss Johnstone was one of the first fatalities and her body was shipped back to her home in Nova Scotia. Of course the school was closed for a time and as teachers were hard to find, my sister, Mrs. Reuben Patterson, was persuaded to teach when it was allowed to open. Jean was one of her pupils. The school was about two and one half miles from home so while my sister went, she drove. However when her turn was over, it was back to the saddle for Jean. When she first started her father had given her a quiet horse but soon she had a real saddle horse, and the more life it had the happier was our daughter. Then before Jean was finished at this school, she had company on her rides for both Bill and Marney were riding with her. Marney was like Jean. She loved a good horse, the more life the better. When it came time for Catherine and Betty to take the road to school they both wanted something quiet, quite different from the older girls. Bill and Marney went to Westlock to finish their High School, but by the time Betty and Catherine were ready, they could get all their grades in Irma.

In the summer of 1928 we were making plans for a new home. We had the carpenters figuring out the amount of materials needed, etc. when one morning, early in August, we had a very heavy frost and everything was frozen. So of course the planning had to stop. Lucky for us we had not got started or it would have been impossible to finance it after the frost. Another lean year ahead of us. Then in 1934 we built an addition to the old one, put an upstairs on it, and at least we had more room. It was a very nice roomy home.

That fall, at Thanksgiving time, Jean and Cliff Saville were married. Cliff was a farmer and rancher down on the Battle River, near Hardisty. Here their two children were born. Francis, now a lawyer in Calgary and Lorna, now Mrs. Richard Read, of Delta, B.C. For several years they have lived in Edmonton.

Some time in the early thirties we acquired a third daughter, Margaret Patterson came to live with us. She had always been one of our family, so it was good to have

her in our home.

Later she went to Edmonton where she took a course in sewing, working with Mrs. Earl Robertson, who was head dressmaker at Johnstone Walkers. To have a garment made by that firm was truly top notch. Then, while the Second War was still on, she married Arnold Hill who had joined the Air Force ranks. After the end of the war they took up some land near Wanham, in the Peace River area. In the fall of 1962 they moved to Kamloops, where they hoped to find some sort of business. However it was not to be, for Arnold died of a heart attack that fall. In the spring Marney and Judy each drove a truck from Kamloops to Irma where she lived in a house on her brother-in-law's farm. Judy had lived with me in 1962-1963 getting her Grade 12. Then she took a course at NAIT to qualify as a Lab. Technician. David also went to NAIT as an Auto Mechanic and now lives in Irma. These are Marney's family. Some years later she married Gordon Cosford, someone she had known in Peace River days. They make their home in Fort McMurray, although they are often at their home in Irma.

Bill Patterson married Mona Watson. He farmed at Irma for a time, then moved to Kamloops where he now works as an electrician. They have four of a family.

Catherine married Ivan Hardy. They too farmed for several years but now live in Edmonton where Ivan is in real estate. They have eight children.

In November of 1942 our Betty married Ray Locke and went to live at Dartmouth, N.S. Ray was in the Air Force and in August, 1943 his crew were being sent to Newfoundland. This was foreign country at that time, so the families could not go. Betty came home to us in Irma. In April of that year we had rented the farm, had a sale and in 1943 moved into Irma where we lived in Mr. Locke's house. He lived with us. In November of 1943 Betty had her first child, Betty Rae Locke. She came home from the hospital on her first wedding anniversary. Ray had a couple of trips home, one when his sister, Doris Simmons, died and again about Christmas when he was sent for some special course to Suffield. He was able to spend Christmas with us. Then in June Betty was making plans to go back to Dartmouth when we got a wire that Ray had died. It was no doubt due to the change in altitudes being too great a strain on the heart.

It seems that he was the navigator for eight planes coming back from Newfoundland. They were to land at Dartmouth, but owing to a very bad storm Ray took them back to Sidney, N.S. where he landed all eight safely. He had just gone into the Mess Hall when he complained of feeling ill, got up to go outside, but instead dropped dead. However he was now back in Canada so the body was shipped home for burial here at Irma. Betty continued to live with us and soon we had moved into our new home, where Mrs. Darling now lives.

Betty and Betty Rae lived with Colin and me until the summer of 1947 when she married Robt. Kirkman and they went to live in Edmonton. How we missed them. That fall they moved back to Irma and went into the store business, setting up as Kirkman and McLean, in the old Elford store. The store was not doing as well as they had hoped, so in 1948 Colin put in a locker plant which was really a costly experiment.

Colin was not to know just how it would affect the business for while it was opened in August, 1948, he passed away suddenly on January 10th, 1949. Colin had a heart attack on Saturday evening, we got him to hospital but he passed away on Monday evening. The store carried on until early in 1951 when Larry Meier bought out my share and he and Bob worked together.

Bob and Betty moved back to Edmonton where Bob worked as provincial traveller for Borden's. In the summer of 1952 he brought Betty and the children down to my place for a visit as he was to be away for a week. Then early on Sunday morning we were wakened by the ringing of the 'phone with the awful word that Bob had been killed in a car crash the night before near Didsbury. I took the call, then Betty came from her room and took the 'phone from me, getting the word herself. I was standing there, just frozen, and she turned from the 'phone. Her first thought was of the children. She said "I can't raise my children in the City", and I said, "There is no need to. You can move in here with me". What courage she has had. Never laying her troubles on someone else but standing up to meet them herself. After everything was over she went to the city and with help from friends there, and Cliff Saville, she had her things brought to Irma. The children stayed with me and so we commenced a new way of life.

By this time Betty had five children as besides Betty Rae there were four Kirkmans. Bobby Anne, Jimmy, Jean and Patti who was just around seven months old. Well it made a big difference in my life, all for the good. I had been so lonesome but now there was no time or reason for that. With five children to care for we had no time left on our hands. And what lovely children they were!

One thing I would like to say about Bob. He was a wonderful father to Betty Rae and how she adored him. Whenever he wrote to Betty, when he was away on his work, I noticed that all the letters were addressed to Mrs. R. B. Kirkman and Betty Rae. None of the others could read but she could.

Then in November of 1956 Betty married Wesley H. Parsons. Wes is a grandson of the Thos. Coultmans, who came to the Orbindale District around 1906. I remember how worried I was when she told me of her coming wedding. All I could wonder was how Wes could take on such a large family, no matter what his love for Betty might be. Well, I had a chance to talk with him one day when I was alone in the house and he came looking for Betty. He told me he had thought about all the responsibility, but still wanted to have Betty and the family. Since then Betty and Wes have three sons of their own, Alan, Leonard and Tom. Wes has been a wonderful father to all the children and they all respond with love and respect for him.

Last year Alan graduated from High School. This year it is Leonard. That only leaves Tom who still has a couple of years. But soon they will be alone except when all their families return, which is fairly often. With all the grandchildren, it makes for quite a large, happy family.

Now I would like to go back to the year 1944 - what a sad year it was. First we get word of Ray's death. Then early in August, we had just moved into our new house,

Uncle Reuben was riding the grader when it hit a stone. He was thrown off, breaking several vertebrae. They took him to Wainwright, then he was sent to the University Hospital, but died soon after his arrival. All the while my mother was very ill and she too passed away in early December. It was a very hard year.

And now about our Irma W.I. I joined the Branch at a meeting at Mrs. Fischer's in June, 1930. Mrs. Fischer was a neighbor of ours and I had a love and respect for her opinion. I thought if she got as much out of, being a member, then it really must have something to offer.

The next month we went to a Grandmothers' meeting at Mrs. Howard Peterson's. This was a wonderful day, folk from all around came and always the Kinsella W.I. joined with Irma. Mrs. Cole had been our first President and when Mrs. Fischer's term of two years was up, then Mrs. Cole was again President.

At our annual meeting, at Mrs. Arnold's home, in December of 1934, I was elected as their third President. This office I held for four years and truly enjoyed it. Holding office is the real way to learn what the Institute has to offer.

In 1946 I went in as Constituency Convener. This office I enjoyed very much. Aside from meeting many worthwhile folk, working for the same cause, one also learns much to benefit oneself.

I should tell you what influenced me to accept the position of District Director in the spring of 1949. The fall before I was to go to a meeting at Rosegarland. It was in the evening. Colin drove and we picked up Jenny and Sig Lesfrud. The meeting was at his brother's. On the way out, talking with Jenny, I asked her who she figured would follow her as her term of Director would be up at the Provincial Convention in the spring. "Why", she said, "I think you should have it, Katie". Well I was

astounded and of course didn't think I was equipped to take on such a piece of work. When we got home I asked Colin if he had heard what she had said. He said that he had and also my answer. I asked if he didn't think I was right but Colin said "No, Kate, you can do it if you say so. You belittle yourself as to your abilities". So by springtime, while Colin had gone on, I remembered his words and knew he would want me to do it. However I could only carry on for two years, as by then I had to give my time to my own business or else lose out. But I truly enjoyed my time in any phase of Institute work and what wonderful friends one makes. When I retired as Convener, I had only served three years, the Wainwright Constituency presented me with a Life Membership in the Federated Women's Institute of Canada.

Truly a great honor and so wonderful of them to do so. And now while I continue as a member I make no great contribution. After all one must ease up sometime. But of all the groups I may have joined, Institute is my true love.

And now, from a family of seven, there are only two of us left. My brother Jim McCauley lives in the Territories while I am back in Irma and so happy to be home again.

In 1908 my oldest sister married Harold Deeton. They lived in Edmonton and Calgary. Harold was a great athlete; lacrosse, baseball, and hockey. He played twice with the Edmonton team when they went to Ottawa to play for the Allen cup in 1908 and 1909. Also he was on the rink that brought the coveted Curlers' trophy, the Brier, to Alberta for the first time. Their family consisted of Helen, now Mrs. Chas. McCleary of Camrose; Catherine, now Mrs. Alex. Campbell; and Gordon, both of Edmonton. My brother Dan married Ina Eddy, who still lives at Kamloops. They had two children, James and Margaret Walker, both at Kamloops.



In September, 1982, Mrs. McLean raising the flag on the restored MacKay Avenue School of 1881. This school was restored for its One Hundredth Anniversary, and is now used as it was in olden times.

And now I shall bring this to a close. Please excuse all the mistakes, blunders and bad typing. Also all the backtracking. I am not a writer but I did want to leave some notes for my family, etc., so this is my opportunity.

I had left out that my daughter, Mrs. Wes Parsons, had been a member of the W.I. and held some office as Mrs. R.B. Kirkman. She also served as President not too many years ago. I do not have the dates.

And so I come to the end of these jottings. Hope you get something out of them and perchance a bit of enjoyment. Good luck.

May, 1977.

Note: Ray Locke's rank in the Airforce was W.O.1. Bob Kirkman was also in the Airforce. However he did not get overseas.

My brother Matthew (Pat) McCauley served in the First War. He went overseas with the 66th Battalion. Over there he was put in to the 49th Battalion. He saw service and was wounded at the Battle of the Somme, coming home in 1916 after spending some time in the British hospitals.

MARJORIE McLEAN (GUILTNER)

I was born September 21, 1931. I received my schooling in Irma and married George G. (Bud) McLean on September 1, 1952, in Lethbridge, Alberta. My husband is a C.P.R. Engineer and we have lived in Lethbridge all our married life. We have two children, a son, Grant, and his wife, Natalie; and a daughter, Darlene.

THE McMINNS

by Alvin McMinn

Mr. I. McMinn farmed and homesteaded on the Buffalo Coulee just west of George Ambler about 1917-18 and 1919 sold to Andrew McBain.

Two children Alvin and Edith attended Albert, Salteaux and Scotstoun schools for periods during school terms of 1917-18-19.

After selling the farm Mr. McMinn bought grain for the North Bawlf Grain Co. or Alberta Pacific Grain Co. in Jarrow during crop years of 1918-19-20 (all dates approximate), and the family lived in Edmonton. Mr. McMinn then left Jarrow for Gibbons, Alberta, where he was employed by the Alberta Pacific Grain Co. for many years.

Alvin McMinn returned to Jarrow in 1938 and operated the same elevator in Jarrow as his father had (the elevator owned by the Alberta Pacific Grain Co.) until the fall of 1943 when he was transferred to Ribstone.

Alvin played hockey with the Irma team, managed by Mr. Hedley during winters 1940-42. Some of his teammates were Frank McGuire, Robert Smith, Albert Glasgow, Pug Brimacombe and Cliff Jones.

Alvin now resides in Edmonton with his wife Irene. His sister Edith passed away in 1954.

OSCAR McMURRAY

An early settler in the Strawberry Plains district was Oscar McMurray who homesteaded NE 1-45-9. Little is known of this man except he sold his land to Art Long in the middle twenties.

MATT McNALL

Matt and Mary McNall, their three sons and a daughter, came to the Batt district in the early thirties. They purchased S.W. 4-47-10-W4th, now owned by Mike Oracheski.

The years were hard on these folk. They were a family who had a lot of sickness and it plagued them all through their lives. Tilly was almost stone deaf as a result of scarlet fever as a child.

None of their children went to school here. They raised nine children, Lenard, Bill, Russel, Bob, Gordon, Earl and Tommy, two girls, Tilly and Margaret. Only two of the children are living now. Margaret and Tommy both live at Provost.

Bill, Bob, Gordon, Earl and Tilly are the only ones of the family that came to Batt with them. Tilly was a good help to her mother through the years and married after going to Ontario. In those years they farmed with horses and they found it hard to cope with farming.

Bill was married when they came here and his wife died a young woman while giving birth to her second child. After the mother's death, Matt and Mary took the two children, Alvin and Margaret. They attended Batt school.

They stayed with the farm until the 1940's, then sold out and went back to Ontario. Matt and Mary both lived to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary, but since have passed away. Alvin McNall passed away from a heart attack, seven days after he got married.



Matthew and Mary McNall.

JOHN McNAUGHTON

John A. McNaughton was born 1883 in Glengarry, Ontario. He came to Canada in 1906 and homesteaded N.E. 26-46-9-W4th nine miles northeast of Irma. He built a sod house and later built a steep roofed lumber house called by friends "the hail splitter".

John started farming with a team of oxen and later graduated to horses. He hauled lumber for the first store in Mannville with oxen.

He joined the Canadian Forces in 1914 and while stationed in Sarcee camp in Calgary, got rheumatism so badly he was discharged from the army. John met and married Bessie A. Boyd on December 24th, 1915.

John borrowed money to buy cattle and run his farming operation. In 1919-20 his crops were frozen so he had to sell out and pay as many bills as he could. In January, 1921 he moved his family to Dunster, B.C. where Bessie's father had moved the year previously.

Their first three children Delbert in May, 1917, Marion in June, 1919 and Don in September, 1920 were born in Irma. Their three youngest children Margaret, Leslie and Stanley were born at Dunster.

John farmed a few years and then went to work for the C.N.R. John was killed in a car accident at Prince Rupert, B.C. at age seventy-five. His wife Bessie died in the Powell River hospital in her sixty-first year.

Delbert and Margaret are living in Campbell River on Vancouver Island. Don and Stanley are still at Dunster, B.C. Leslie is living at Sicamous, B.C. Marion married Wilfred Sanders of Irma. They farmed and raised their family at Irma before moving to Wainwright where they are retired.

ALEXANDER McROBERTS FAMILY

by Ella McRoberts and Elsie McRoberts

Alexander Robb McRoberts was born at Ballyoran near Belfast, Ireland in 1884. He came to Canada in 1906, and to the Albert district in 1915, settling on the half section formerly owned by Jack Rae. There he farmed until his death in 1943.

Sarah Ella Currie was born at West Cape, P.E.I. in 1896 and came west to teach school in 1916. Her marriage to Alex McRoberts took place that fall.

The McRoberts raised three children, all of whom attended Albert School: Edith, Evelyn, and Richard (Dick). Edith became first a teacher, then a nurse; she married Stan Taylor of Edmonton and they had two sons, Bob and Barry. Sadly, Barry was killed at the age of 27 in 1979. Evelyn also became a nurse and married John Moore of Tofield. They had three daughters: Marjory, Teresa and Judith. Terry, the second daughter, was teaching in Irma when she was killed in a car accident in January of 1977. (The Adventure Playground in the schoolyard is her memorial here). Dick married Elsie Horn of Wainwright and they had two children Alan and Sheila.

After Dick's marriage, Ella McRoberts moved into Irma where at first she looked after the Ladies' Restroom and the Egg Grading Station. Later, working for A.G.T.,

she became one of our faithful switchboard operators. When Irma got the dial system, she retired, lived in Edmonton for a few years, and returned to become one of the "charter" residents of Chacutenah Manor. She was a staunch supporter of the United Church, and is an avid bridge player. Ella is currently a resident of the Senior Citizens' Lodge at Tofield.



Ella McRoberts and her children- Edith Taylor, Evelyn Moore, Dick McRoberts.

RICHARD McROBERTS FAMILY

by Elsie McRoberts

Although I didn't come to teach in the Irma area until 1944, my connections with Irma go back to my childhood in the 1930's. My parents, Charles and Dorothy Horn, had begun their married life on a Soldier Settlement farm down by the railroad bridge in the Battle River valley and were friends of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wilbraham and Jim and Annette Donoghue. We moved to Wainwright where my dad worked in the Buffalo Park office, but for a glorious week every summer our family would visit the Donoghue farm. Some of my happiest childhood memories are of running down the Battle River hills at Donoghues, or going over to play with the Hill girls- Mina and Muriel. In the "Dirty Thirties" our coming must have been a lot of work for Miss Donoghue (who had only a two-room house) but the Donoghues were hospitality itself, and we thought it great fun to sleep in one of Jim's granaries. And what a thrill it was for my brother and me to ride in Jim's black Ford car (a Model A, I think) - we never had a car.

In 1943 I graduated from Wainwright High, took a three month Normal School training in Edmonton, and was out at my first school, Sligo, northeast of Wainwright, by November. This was wartime, so teachers were turned out in a hurry!

In the fall of 1944 I came to teach at Orbindale, north of Irma, boarding first with Mr. and Mrs. William Prior, and the next year with the Erle Priors. In the spring of 1945 I met Dick McRoberts at a dance at Orbindale. We were married in 1947 and lived on the farm in the Albert district until 1955.

Alan was born in 1948; I taught at Albert for two years 1949-50 and 1950-51, and then Sheila was born in 1952. These were hard times for a small farmer, and finances were tight, but we had many good times. Dick pitched softball for the Albert team, and curled in town in the winter; I was active in Buffalo Coulee W.I.

In 1955 I accepted a position as Grade Five teacher in Irma. We sold the farm to the Clisdells and Dick bought grain for the Searle Grain Co. for several years. In 1961 he became a partner of Keith Coffin in Coffin and McRoberts Farm Supply, supplying Shell products to farmers and driving a school bus for some time.

In 1976 the business had done so well that it was becoming too much, so the partnership was dissolved and Dick set up a Shell Bulk Agency on his own, from which he retired in 1980.

Dick was an avid golfer, and a loyal supporter of the Chamber of

Commerce. After a brief illness, he passed away in July, 1982.

Our son and daughter are both graduates of the University of Alberta. Alan has worked in Recreation since 1970; he is married to Diana Williams and they have a daughter, Brandy and a son Daniel Richard. Sheila is a teacher and is married to Dale Klein, who worked in the Bank of Montreal here in the late 60's. They have two children, Shane and Denise. Both Alan and Sheila currently live in Calgary.

I have been teaching high school in Irma for twenty years during which time there have been many changes in the school and in education in general. I have particularly enjoyed my extracurricular work with our school's Drama Club, and have held various positions in our professional organization, the Alberta Teachers' Association. My interest in education and in the young people of Irma will continue even after I retire.



The Dick McRoberts Family: Dick, Sheila (McRoberts) Klein, Alan and Diana McRoberts, Dale Klein, Ella McRoberts, Denise Klein, Brandy McRoberts, Elsie McRoberts, Shane Klein.

BILL AND BORGHILD MEAKINS

Bill and I lived in the Batt district for some twelve years from 1946 to 1958. We were married in July of 1944, but were not to set up a home for a couple of years, these were war years.

Bill served in the R.C.A.F. for five years both in Canada and overseas. It was not until his return in 1945 that we were able to start up our home on the farm place in the valley known as the "Ezra Denison" farm which we had purchased earlier from J.M. Holt.

Up until this time I had followed my teaching career. My first school was the Roseberry School east of Irma. From there I next taught at Strawberry Plains - then Jarrow and Batt.

The farm years have so many pleasant memories. Our two children were born there, daughter, Shirleyanne and son, Douglas. We both loved the community effort so needed in the rural areas. We were active in the United Church work. Bill served as local school trustee and in the Farmer's Union. He worked to organize the rural electrification of the area and we had the satisfaction of seeing our country "lit up" before we left.



Bill Meakins family, 1960.

Our youngsters started school at Batt and Albert, where I resumed teaching. In 1958 we moved from the area to Edmonton, where Bill also joined the teaching profession. We are now retired and do enjoy the good memories of our life on the farm - both as youngsters growing up in the Jarrow area and as adults in the Batt area. We are happy for our good life and that of our family.

Shirleyanne graduated with a Master's Degree in Education and pursues that career as a consultant with the Edmonton Public School Board. She married Geoff Michaels in 1967 and they have three daughters, Cherilyn, Danielle and Jacquelin.

Douglas entered the field of medicine, graduating as a psychiatrist in 1981. He married Patricia Rusch and they have three daughters, Debra, Diana and Janelle. He has his practice in Edmonton where we all now make our home.

BOB MEAKINS FAMILY

by Mr. and Mrs. Bob Meakins and Helen Mayne

The Meakins family first moved from England to a forty acre farm in Ontario. In 1905 they moved to Wetaskiwin, bringing with them their four cows, a team of horses, their machinery and household goods. In 1907 they moved to a homestead in the Jarrow district close to where the Metropolitan school was later built. They hired some land broken and Bob and Harry broke some with oxen and a walking plow.

There was no school at that time so Bob and his younger sister didn't have the opportunity to go. The girls milked cows, churned the butter and took it to Loughheed to sell or exchange for goods. There was no railroad through Jarrow at that time. Mr. Bob Meakins, Sr. died of cancer in 1908 and was buried on the big hill in

the northeast corner of his homestead. His body still rests there.

Harry took a homestead close to Jarrow. Rose and Nellie left home to find work, Bob and Maud stayed at home with their mother. Bob had to take over the farming at a young age. However, by this time they had several horses and cows.

In 1918 Bob joined the Army. He was allowed leave to come home and put up hay for the cattle as his mother and sister were on the farm alone. On June 10th, 1920 Bob married Lizzie Michael. They lived on Bob's parents' homestead for two years in the Metropolitan district and then moved three miles north of Jarrow where they farmed for many years. They raised many cattle and also milked cows. Cream was \$1.50 for a five gallon can. They also had one hundred head of horses, two hundred head of sheep and many chickens. Eggs sold for three cents a dozen and wheat for only eighteen cents a bushel.



Bill and Josie Fergen, Hazel and Maude (Bob's sisters) Minnie, Lizzie, Bob and Maude's husband. 50th Anniversary.

Bob and Lizzie raised six children: Clarence, Viola, Clifford, Claude, Helen and Norman. Clarence married Frances Harding and they had seven children: Melvin, Sharron, Bonnie, Mervin, Lorne, Delores and Debbie. Clarence lives on a farm at Irma.

Viola married Morris Mickelson and they have one child, Darrell. Viola lives at Viking.

Clifford married Gladys Hammer and they had five children: Jeannette, Linda, Judy, Robie and Connie. Clifford and Gladys live just south of Kinsella.

Claude lives on the home farm at Irma. Helen married Frankie Mayne and they have three children: Sherry, Lonnie and Doyle. Helen and Frankie live at Sedgewick.

Norman married Delia Bird and they have three children: Earl, Norma and Elaine. Norman and Delia live on a farm at Irma.

Bob and Lizzie moved to Irma in 1972 and are still

living there. They celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary in June, 1980 with many relatives and friends helping them to share in this happy occasion. Bob is now over eighty years old, and lives in Extendicare in Viking as does Mrs. Meakins.

HARRY MEAKINS FAMILY

by Lill Lingley and Borghild Meakins

Henry Meakins or "Harry" as he was known to everyone, was born in Rotherhithe, England in 1885 and was one of nine children.

His father and mother first came to a forty acre farm in Ontario. In 1905 they came west to Wetaskiwin bringing with them, their four cows, a team of horses, machinery and household effects. In 1907 they moved to a homestead over by Metropolitan School in the Jarrow district.

Harry and Bob broke some land with the walking plow and oxen.

Their Dad passed away in 1908 and is buried on a hill on the farm. Harry then took a homestead one and a quarter miles east of Jarrow - the highway and railroad go right through the farm.

He then met Minnie Michael who had come up from Elma, Wisconsin, with her family to Dried Meat Lake region near Ohaton in 1908. In 1910 they came to a homestead west and north of Jarrow where Asmond Ronjom now lives. Harry and Minnie were married in 1913. They lived on their quarter and milked a few cows and farmed a little. There was lots of open land all around them, so they could put up hay on the prairie as there weren't many that had stock.

Harry's sister, Annie, and her husband, Charlie White, lived just over a mile north and a little east of them. Bob Dewar lived where Ruth and Lawrence White lived before moving to Irma.

The years went by and they were busy making a living. I remember going to town in Jarrow in 1918 and everyone had a mask or handkerchief on their face - it was the year of the flu, when so many died from it.

The Hollaway Bros., George and Jim, were running one store in Jarrow then, and do you remember the gum



50th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Meakins, Henning Johnson, Joan and Gordon Meakins, Lil and Buster Lingley, Borghild and Bill Meakins, seated are Harry and Minnie Meakins.

drops they put on the spouts of the coal oil can when you lost the top off it?

Jarrow was quite a place at one time; a creamery (Nellie Moore nee Matthews ran that), two stores, a bank, a pool hall, livery barn, lumberyard, blacksmith shop, restaurant, church, two garages, post office, elevator and school where we got our schooling. A high school in later years was up above Bill Boyd's store. Jarrow even had a doctor at one time.

In the summer of 1920, Mother milked twelve cows by hand. Of course by this time they had quite a few range cattle and horses. Water was a problem. They had a shallow well, but it was mostly seepage water, so they used to take their stock down across the tracks to Gratton Lake to a spring and water them there in the winter.

Gradually Dad bought more land, the Clayton Reece quarter and Bob Dewar's quarter. He also bought pastureland south and east of the tracks. Mr. Teeter now owns it, except for an acreage where the buildings are that Mr. Poulton has now.

In 1928, Dad bought his first car and drilled a well.

Jarrow was noted for its picnics and stampedes. I remember my Dad had a big black stallion they used to want him to bring in every year to buck, but nobody hardly ever rode him. Then later on he was noted for his roan Belgian stallion. There were many roan horses around the country as the result of him. Then he had a big sorrel Belgian stallion after that too.

My mother's pride and joy was a trotting mare, which she drove on the buggy and cutter and you could also ride her. They had her for years and even won one or two prizes for her. She finally got killed going through a door when an iron stuck in her side and killed her. Dad also had many horses and cattle killed on the railroad tracks.

Dad had bought section 9 from my Grandmother and sold it to Arthur Russel, and he bought her quarter by the Metropolitan School. As there was a big hay slough on this, besides farmland, he used to put up a lot of hay there (especially if it was a dry year), and farm the rest. In the winter he would haul hay from there, which was a

cold job, so he finally built a house on the front of his big rack and had a stove in it. This was a lot better than walking behind to keep warm. He had an extra big rack made so it wouldn't tip over.

In the Depression we used to have a lot of people stop and ask for food, and Dad never turned them away. Of course that's when all the low prices were: 5 cents for a dozen eggs; 1 1/2 cents a pound for steers; \$2.00 for a five-gallon can of cream, etc.

Dad was also a stonemason by trade. He built part of his house out of stones. It was warm in winter and cool in summer. There are lots of chimneys and the odd fireplace that he has built around the country. He also moved quite a few houses out of Jarrow, including the Jarrow livery barn out to his farm with horses. This was before they had all the conveniences they have nowadays.

I mustn't forget to mention Harry Carter who was our neighbor for years.

The Meakins have four surviving children who make their home in the area: Lillian married Buster Lingley and they make their home in Jarrow and have two sons, Jim and Bill, both married. Buster and Lillian are proud great-grandparents.

Ruth married Lawrence White and they also have two sons, Gordon and Clifton, who are both married. They are also proud grandparents and have retired to Irma, Alberta.

Bill married Borghild Bruhaug. They now reside in Edmonton. They have two children, Shirleyanne and Douglas, both married. Bill and Borghild have four granddaughters.

Gordon married Joan Murray and they now reside in Viking. They have two children, Terry and Ellen, both married. They also are proud grandparents.

When Dad and Mother retired, they moved to Irma in 1963. They celebrated their golden wedding in 1963.

In 1970, Dad passed away and the Gratton Lodge No. 144 of Irma administered final rights for a Bro. Member of forty-one years standing. He had an honorary life membership.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Meakins at Wainwright where they were married in 1913.

Granny Meakins, as she is known to all her family, celebrated her eighty-sixth birthday in September, 1981 at the home of her grandchildren, Clifton and Carol White near Jarrow. On this occasion forty of her offspring gathered to help her celebrate her birthday with a big dinner. Her four children were present, to share her day as well as, eight grandchildren and their spouses, plus twenty great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter.

Mother now lives in the Auxiliary Hospital in Viking.

Mrs. Meakins passed away December 1984.



Harry Meakins on the farm.

R. T. MEAKINS FAMILY

by Eileen Prior

My parents Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thomas Meakins, better known as R.T. came from England after the Boer War, which Dad fought in, to Alberta to take up homesteading two miles south of Jarrow. First residing in Edmonton where they lived in the winter and in a tent in the summer, while Dad built a two-room shack to begin with.

I was born (Eileen Hannah) in Edmonton on April 3rd, and my sister Gladys, now Mrs. Jack English, May 16th, 1913, with Doctor Braithwaite attending.

We then came to reside two miles south of Jarrow beside Gratton Lake after which the farm was named and is now owned by Ray Lewis.

We took our schooling in Jarrow and walked two miles every day, with no holidays like the pupils get today. We picked saskatoons and gooseberries on the way home to sell for ten cents a pail to buy candy for a treat. The winters I'll never forget. They were so cold walking, sometimes freezing my face and hands and the odd toes, but one had to go to school, rain or shine. It was much nicer to stay home and help with the chores. We learned to milk at a very early age, also helped to build a barn from poles and straw for the oxen and horse, old Bud.

Times got pretty hard and in the summer Dad would paint schools to help earn a little, as masonry was his trade. Why he tried to farm I'll never know, but he

thought he would some day make his fortune on a quarter section. What a dream! Dad would be away for a week or longer and in the winter clerked in Holloway's store, so we girls did chores and used to haul hay home two miles in the winter to feed the cows. I think we had one or two pigs. At the age of twelve to harness the team was a chore and we got home after pitch dark, more times than I like to remember. As there was no high school in Jarrow until later years, I went to clerk in Brodie's store in Lougheed and worked in the telephone office in the evenings. A year to two later I had the chance to work in the Hardisty Hospital and trained by the "Saint Anne's Sisters" as a nurse's aide. Those days bring happy memories, though the odd day or night was sad. The doctors McBride in Hardisty and Greenberg in Irma wanted me to take nurses training, but money was scarce so I worked for twelve dollars a month.

In 1936 I married Edmond Prior (Ted) who was born and raised in the Orbindale district. We lived in a shack on the Erle Prior farm which Ted and Erle had rented at that time for five years. Later Ted bought the farm, Section 28 from Mr. Johnson. The first house was built by Ernie Sproule so we are told, the lumber coming from Ontario. It was later bought by Dale Johnson. The school was named after Orbin Sproule and Dale Johnson, the two first boys to attend. Over the years the farm changed hands a number of times, Sproules, Johnson, McJulls, Lukens and Jake Meyer. It being rented to the above, we then bought it and still reside there.

We have a family of five, Clair William Thomas who was married to Lynn Nickleson of Mannville. They have five girls, Lori (Mrs. Al Fenton), Lana (Mrs. Leonard Parsons), Kirby and the twins Correen and Kristle Gayle.

Our daughter Verla, Mrs. Bill Belton, has three children, Gene, Kathy and Sandy.



Mr. and Mrs. R.T. Meakins near their home.



Mr. R. T. Meakins going to paint Batts school.

Isabell joined the Air Force and married Captain Ronald Clory. They have four children, Joey, Vallerie, Brian and Dawn Marie.

David on the farm married Dianne Congdon and they have three children, Quinten Leigh, Darren Eduard and Terry Lynn.

Beverly Ann married Phil Valleau and they have three, Denece Lee, Stacy Ross and Shelly Kim.

Ted joined the Mason of Gratton Lodge in 1952 and held the office of Worshipful Master in 1958 and is a charter member of the Irma Elks.

In 1953 I joined the Order of the Eastern Star, and was a member in Magdalene Chapter till 1974. I then affiliated with Martha Chapter 124 Irma in 1975 and am still active in Stardom.

Today, 1982, we are retired but live on the farm which the sons have taken over.



Eileen and Ted Prior.

MEAKINS, TERRANCE, LUCILLE AND FAMILY

Terrance Meakins, better known as Terry, was born in Viking hospital in 1947. He was raised on a farm near Jarrow, and later moved to Irma with his parents, Gordon and Joan, and his sister Ellen, in about 1963. Terry attended Jarrow school for two years and then attended Irma School until he graduated from Grade twelve in 1965. Upon leaving school, Terry worked in different areas of Alberta at various jobs for about two years. Then in 1967 he began to apprentice as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic, and later received his Mechanic's License. Terry worked with his father in a garage business, known as Gordon's General Repair, here at Irma for a few years.

In 1967, Terry married Lucille Savage. They have two children; Leanne, born April 16, 1974; and Bradley, born September 27, 1976. Terry and Lucille have lived in Irma since their marriage with the exception of a couple of years that they spent in Edmonton in the early 1970's, and a few months that they lived in Teheran, Iran in 1975.

Lucille was employed by the Bank of Montreal at Irma in 1967. She continued to work for the Bank of Montreal for about eight years, during which time she worked at Irma, Wainwright, and Edmonton branches. In 1975 she retired to raise her family.

Terry has spent most of his time working in various capacities in the Petroleum industry; as far away as Edge Island in the North Sea, Norway, the Arctic, and the Middle East; as well as having worked throughout Alberta, in Northern British Columbia and in Saskatchewan. At the present time, Terry is an owner and operator of Saturn Drilling Inc.



R. T. Meakins and daughter, Gladys tending the bees.

LARRY AND LAURENE MEIER FAMILY

Lawrence Edwin Meier was born at Luseland, Saskatchewan in 1913. Laurene Hanham was born at Woodrow, Saskatchewan in 1919. They were married in Hamilton, Ontario in 1942. They moved to Irma in 1950 with their two sons Gary and Dennis.

Larry, in partnership with Bob Kirkman, operated the Irma Food Market, which was a butcher shop and locker plant. It is now the Drop-In Centre. The Meiers lived for the first year in a little house near the school across from the United Church. Later they moved into the north half of the Irma Food Market building, where they built a suite. Two girls, Myrna and Kathy were born when they lived there.

During their fifteen years in Irma, Larry served the community in many ways. He was instrumental in organizing the Elks' Lodge, was the first Exalted Ruler, and went on to be District Deputy of the Elks. He also organized the annual Elks' barbeque.

Larry won many prizes for his bacons and hams at the Alberta Meat Processors' Association. He served on the executive and as president of the association for many years and received a life membership for his contributions. Larry also served several years as Mayor of Irma. Both Larry and Laurene were ardent curlers.

In 1955 Larry skipped a rink that laid an eight ender in Edmonton. He and Vic Torrance, Harold Barber and Milt Younker were interviewed on T.V. after the game.

For the last eight years before retirement, Larry was instructor of Meat Technology at Lethbridge Community College.

Of their children, Gary took a radio art course. He was newsman at Lethbridge, Calgary, Niagara Falls, Oshawa and is now with T.T.C. in Toronto. He married Rene Lauket and have no children.

Dennis has devoted his life to music and writing. During his years in Europe, his 'Letters of Europe' were published in the Lethbridge Herald. He is not married and lives in Cranbrook, B.C.

Myrna married Mark Henderson, newsman at C.F.B.I. Toronto. They have three children, Vicki, Robert and Jennifer.

Kathy married Gene Dethlefsen, oil battery operator at Brooks, Alberta. They have one son, Keith.

Larry and Laurene Meier are retired and living in Taber, Alberta.

JOE MERRY

From memory of Ernie Rae

Joe Merry, his wife and two boys, lived on the place now owned by Allen Larson. The two boys Roy and Howard, attended Education Point school. Mrs. Merry acted as midwife for the neighbor women and was a very hard-working woman.

At one time they had a flock of Canada geese (tamed).



The Larry Meier Family: Gene Dethlefsen, Gary Meier, Larry Meier, Mark Henderson, Dennis Meier. Front Row: Kathy, Rene, Laurene, Myrna, Sheryl Dow.

They spent a lot of time feeding and watching them. He also had a great interest in trees, planting and grafting.

When Roy grew up he drilled wells which included the Printup well and the well at the Holt ranch. The Printup well, especially, was a great water supply and watered hundreds of head of cattle for many years. Later Howard moved to Berwyn.

Howard played the violin left-handed. It is not known for sure where they went after leaving Irma.

The Merry's were very staunch Seventh-Day Adventists and were very good gardeners. One Saturday George Hardy stopped to buy some vegetables. Mr. Merry would not take payment for them on Saturday. On Sunday morning he went to Hardy's to collect payment, but Mr. Hardy said, "Oh no, I do not do business on Sunday". Needless to say these vegetables had to be paid for during the week.

EUGENE MEYER

by E. Meyer

We, Eugene and Mary, were married in Youngstown, Alberta in 1929 where we lived for two years. Our son Jim was born while we lived there. We moved to Irma in 1931 but stayed only a short while until we moved to the Tom Wood's farm five miles northeast of Kinsella in 1932. We spent four hard years there. Two more children, Eugene "Junior" was born in 1933 and Irene, both born in Viking Hospital.

In the fall of 1936 we moved to a farm twenty miles south of Vermilion. Catherine and Marjorie were born while we were living there. We moved to the former Arnold farm north of Irma where we spent twenty-five pleasant years.

Time to move on again, so we moved two miles north to our present location. We have lived here for nineteen years and have built up a comfortable home in nice surroundings. The trees, especially the spruce and

weeping willow, have grown tall. There are six oil wells on our property. We still farm and the chief crops grown are rape, wheat, oats and rye. There are still a few cattle here too.

The children are all married with the exception of Eugene Jr. who has been a great help to us.

Jim is married and lives at Berwyn, Alberta. He has two daughters. Irene lives at Winfield, B.C. with her husband and four children. Catherine has an apartment building and lives near Irene. She is married and has five children. Marjorie is married with four children and lives near Ardrossan, Alberta. We have three great-grandchildren.

Mary enjoys gardening and making latch hook rugs. At one time she knitted for the Red Cross.

MEYER, JACOB

Jacob Meyer was born at Formosa, Ontario in 1888. Raised in a family of fourteen children, Jacob was forced to leave school at an early age to help out on the farm. When he was eighteen, Jacob, had the misfortune to lose his right hand while operating a straw cutter. Soon after, in 1908, he came west to Alberta, and filed on a homestead at Youngstown.

In 1921, Jacob married Lucy McKerverey Kitchen, a young widow with one son, Joe. Jacob and Lucy farmed at Youngstown for several years. During that time three daughters were born: Marion in August of 1922; Helen in January of 1924; Margaret in March of 1925.

With the oncoming drought and depression, Jacob moved his family north by team and wagon in 1931. A two week trip brought them to the Irma area. They moved onto the former Sproule farm just north of the Orbindale school site. The Meyer girls attended Orbindale school where classes were taught by Miss Jean McLean and later by Donald Gunn.

Sadness hit the Meyer Family in 1936 with the untimely death of Lucy. Jacob was later married in 1940, to the widow of George Ambler, the former Zylph Rule. Jacob and Zylph continued to farm until they retired in 1946, at which time they moved to Langley Prairie, B.C.

Jacob worked as a night watchman at a lumber mill near Ashcroft, B.C. and raised fruit on his acreage at Langley for a few years. He later sold his acreage and moved to New Westminster, B.C. where he resided until his death in 1969 at the age of eighty-one. Jacob lies at rest in the Irma cemetery. His widow, Zylph, passed away in 1983 and is also buried at the Irma cemetery.

Marion Meyer married Lawrence Savage in 1941. They raised eleven children and still reside at Irma.

Helen Meyer travelled to Ontario in the spring of 1943. There she found employment and later in 1945 married Edward Zinger. They raised three sons and three daughters. They still live in Ontario.

Margaret Meyer gained employment in the hospital at Vernon, B.C. Two years later she moved to Ontario where she married John Rutherford in 1953. John's profession as a Geologist has taken them all over Canada. In about 1978 John and Margaret settled in their present home, on an acreage near Perry Sound, Ontario.



Jacob Meyer family. Left to Right: Zylph, Jake, daughter Margaret.

LINUS AND ROSETTA MEYER

Linus was born on May 23, 1899, the son of Joseph and Catherine Meyer, at Formosa, Ontario. Rosetta was born to Frank and Amelia Strauss on July 15, 1901, also at Formosa. They were raised on farms just two and a half miles apart. During their courtship they devised a secret telephone ring on the rural party line so that they could talk in private! They were married in Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Formosa on April 5, 1921 and they farmed one hundred acres in that area for six years. During those six years three sons were born to them: Francis in 1922, Gerald in 1923 and Alfred in 1925.

In the Spring of 1927 Linus heard the call, "Go West young man, go West," so he and Rosetta held a farm sale and moved by train to the Youngstown-Scotfield area of Alberta. (Linus' brothers, Jake and John, had preceded them to this district.) They farmed there for five years during which time twin girls, Eileen and Marie, were born to them in 1927 and a son, Oscar, in 1929. After one bumper crop, one frozen crop, one hailed-out crop and two dried-out crops, they moved all their possessions, along with six children, to Irma where they farmed land owned by Mr. Arnold, SW4-47-8-W4th. It was in the fall of 1931, while on a threshing expedition to Irma with his brother-in-law, Norman Strauss, that Linus learned of the availability of this land. Three more children were born to them on this farm: Rita in 1933, Clair in 1935 and Mabel in 1939.

In 1933, the Meyers purchased their first car--a 1932 Model B Ford. In 1937 a new two-storey house, which still stands today, was built on this farm. It was constructed by Jim Craig and is the "home" remembered by the family. For many years, this also was home for Harry Strauss--until his marriage to Angeline Craig. Miss Klippin, a teacher, boarded with the Meyers. It was a large, busy household!

Linus and Rosetta provided a home filled with community spirit and sportsmanship. Linus always found time to participate in sports with his children--in later years as coach or manager. All of his children have followed him in this line! Rosetta was an excellent seamstress, turning out nearly all the clothes worn by her large family on her treadle Singer sewing machine. Of

course, homemade bread and butter, homecanned fruit and vegetables and home-butchered meat were the order of the day.

On April 5, 1944, the Meyers had a farm auction and moved to Clover Bar where they had purchased a dairy farm complete with electricity and plumbing. Eugene and Mary Meyer and family took over the Arnold farm at that time.

It was at Clover Bar that their young son, Lorne, was born in 1946. In 1955 they bought the completely furnished "dream home" that had been raffled at the Edmonton Exhibition and had it moved to the farm. This provided them with a much smaller, comfortable residence for their semi-retirement years. At this point Linus ceased full-time farming when first Clair, then Oscar, then a neighbor, rented the land from him.

In 1971 Linus and Rosetta celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. It was a gala event with nine children and thirty grandchildren in attendance. Many relatives and friends (including their bridesmaid and best man from Ontario) came from many parts of Canada.

They continued to maintain their home until 1977 when failing health forced them to retire to Fort Saskatchewan Senior Citizens' Lodge. Linus passed away on May 14, 1978 in the Fort Saskatchewan General Hospital. Rosetta suffered a stroke in January 1979 which left her right side paralysed. She resided at Dickinsfield Extended Care Hospital in Edmonton, until her passing on December 13, 1982.

Linus is remembered by his family for his wide general knowledge, his love of the land, and his pride in his children and grandchildren. Rosetta is remembered for her generosity, her sense of family responsibility and her strong religious commitment.

And their ten children:

Francis passed away in 1969. He and his wife, Audrey, had five children. Gerald and his wife, Alice, live in Edmonton where he is involved in real estate. They also are the parents of five children. Alfred and his wife, Marie, have three children. Fred is busy with a taxi business and hobby-farming at Prince George, B.C. Eileen is employed by the Edmonton Catholic School

District as principal of Archbishop O'Leary High School. Marie was a Language Arts supervisor for the Edmonton Catholic District until her untimely death on April 25, 1983. Oscar lives in Sherwood Park, where he and his wife, Hazel, raised four children. Hazel passed away on July 14, 1983. Oscar is a real estate representative. Rita is a teacher and farms with her husband, Maurice Paré, near Wainwright. They have three children. (The youngest, Raymond, is the only grandson to thus far follow Linus' farming footsteps.) Clair, the only farming son, and his wife, Stella, farm near Lamont and have six sons. Mabel and husband, Denis Farmer, have four children. Mabel is a medical receptionist in Victoria, B.C. Lorne also is involved in real estate. He and his wife, Marian, lived in Sherwood Park until September, 1983, at which time they moved to Victoria, B.C.



Linus and Rosetta Meyer on their wedding day, April 5th, 1921.



Meyer Family Fred, Gerald, Linus, Rosetta, Oscar, Francis, Clair, Eileen, Rita, Lorne, Mabel, Marie.

MEMORIES AND DREAMS

*Composed by daughter Marie for 50th wedding anniversary of Linus
and Rosetta Meyer*

*What would we do without them
Our memories and our dreams,
When we cannot be together
They are all we have it seems!
But let us not confuse them
Each has its separate place,
Your memories are what have been
Our dreams are what we face.*

*Your memories embrace the past
Of rare and happy thoughts,
A courtship in far off Ontario
A pleasant smile that brought
The bells of love and marriage
And promised future things,
The sharing of memories with another
And made the time take wings.*

*Your memories are what you've done
They leave no cause for doubt,
You raised a young boy child
Frank knew what happiness was all about.
His days well-lived but cherished now
Yes, time did go so fast,
His passing -- brought us sadness
But memories never pass.*

*You've fulfilled so many different aims
Now stored in your memory book,
For Gerry your second boy
On those pages took many a look.
Never in doubt for his future
His thoughts were mechanically bound,
His service station was the only one
In all the country round.*

*But dreams are hope of what
We want the future to bring us,
Really it was a third boy
Who made a life so glorious.
Fred loved to wander this land
Far north and to the west,
He was ready morning, noon or night
For travelling - do you think he ever did rest?*

*With hopeful hearts and happy thoughts
That seemed to keep on going,
The family tree just had to show
A girl - no two were growing.
Was it Eileen, no maybe Marie,
You remember things were doubly done,
For the professional world called them both
To long years of service to the young.*

*Family traits you know and treasure
Of nose and smile and hair,
Oscar, the next lad, had them all
Characteristics from both sides he did share.*

*A chuckling sense of humor true
Brought the Meyer smile to stay,
A Strauss inheritance brought to light
A sense of work and play.*

*Somewhere in the shadows hiding
You found the tomorrows to explore,
For warmth of heart and light of eyes
Brought Rita safe to shore.
Courageously she came to serve
A song on her lips without fail,
For hers was a talent of a special kind -
The throat of a nightingale.*

*A son to follow in your steps
Was never far from mind,
For the days on the farm were the best
Of the many offered to mankind.
To Clair the game of life means joy
Passed on to all with a shake of the hand,
Farming is a means to him
Of furthering life upon the land.*

*You dreamed and dreamed from day to day
'Til the years spread a special light,
For 'tis said a little girl
Can make a star so bright.
Mabel learned so early it seemed
That a home being so near or far,
With built-in love and friendship
Is where her treasures are.*

*That life could be as rich as this
Did you dream on that far off day?
But lo - life's legacy had more
For Lorne had come to stay.
He travels the academic road
To fulfill his hopes and dreams,
For the path that he does follow
Will lead to his future schemes.*

*And since this day is granted you
To make your dreams come true,
Then memories must live again
As you would want them to.
And memories and dreams will join
To give to you it seems,
Heaven in full - with these combined
Your memories and our dreams.*



The family home at Clover Bar.

THE LARS MIKKELSON FAMILY

by Verna Mikkelsen Daley

Our dad, (or Papa as we called him), Lars Mikkelson, was born in Hamer, Norway in 1868. At the age of eighteen he emigrated to the United States with his parents and one sister. Two brothers had already preceded him there. He often told us about his long journey aboard ship, and the first sight that impressed him as they came into the harbour at New York was the Statue of Liberty.

They made their first home in Wisconsin where he worked and went to a college there for a time, until he moved with his parents and sister to St. John, North Dakota.

He and Mom (Milla Arneson) from Aneta, North Dakota, were married in 1902. They farmed at St. John for some time and Dad also acted as a land assessor, and was also secretary-treasurer for the school for a time. They managed a hotel and store at Fish Lake near St. John for a while - at that time it was a very busy summer resort. All their children, fourteen in all, were born in St. John.

Mom's twin brother, Oluf Arneson, and his wife, had moved to a homestead at Ribstone and were doing well, and so it was decided that we, too, would move to Canada. That was in 1926, when Vera and I were only a month old. Dad and Mel had come a month or so earlier to harvest, so that left Mom to travel by train with Carl, Rudy, Madeline, Laurence, Olive, Lester, Alice, Lillian, Vera and me. Rudy, only fifteen at the time, took over the responsibility of helping Mom with us nine children. Two older sisters, Thea and Gunda, were married and already living in Canada, and my brother Henry came on his own later. Our first home in Canada was on a farm eight miles south of Chauvin. Crops were not good and then came the depression years. There were hot, dry summers and very cold winters. In spite of the hardships I have very fond memories of going to, and taking part in, Christmas concerts in the winter with team and sleigh,

with the jingling of the sleigh bells, with straw in the bottom of the sleigh and plenty of blankets to keep us warm. Then there was the hill behind the barn where we would go sleigh riding, down the hill and out onto a slough. That same slough in the spring looked so blue, and the ducks used to swim there. Spring also brought wild flowers and the hill close to the house would be blanketed with crocuses. We also enjoyed the trip to Dilberry Lake in the summer, by wagon or democrat, camping overnight and picking wild berries. Mom was a good cook and we always had good, wholesome meals, but I remember many times having mush for supper - even that was good the way Mom made it.

In 1936, with all our belongings packed on the hayrack wagon like gypsies, we made our way to Irma. I remember as we pulled away Vera, Lillian and I waved goodbye to everything on the farm. We travelled all day and slept under the stars in a wagon at night. One night some kind people along the highway invited us in for supper and gave us a bed, so we slept with a roof over our heads that night. The Fabyan hills stand out in my mind - they seemed so high and the road so winding.

Mrs. DeFrain and her daughter Hazel had preceded us here from Chauvin and we stayed with her until Dad was able to build a log house chinked with mud on a piece of land approximately fourteen miles north of Irma. That fall my sister Gunda came to visit us and insisted that we move into Irma and to better quarters. We moved into a house where the present Goldie Larson home is. As we drove into the yard my sisters Gunda, Olive and Alice were standing on the step and Olive with her guitar for accompaniment sang "You're as Welcome as the Flowers in May", and so that was our welcome to our new home in Irma.

Between Mom and Dad, they took on odd jobs in order to support the family. Dad bucked wood for many people around Irma, and it was a familiar sight to see him walking down the road with his bucksaw over his shoulder. He also did gardening, and he and Mom for a time did the janitor work in the school. Mom also did



Mikkelson Family. Rudy, Carl, Henry, Mel, Gunda, Thea, Lawrence, Lester on Lar's knee, Lillian on Milla's knee, Alice, Olive, and Madeline.

various jobs such as housekeeping for such families as the Ed. Elfords, Ches. Feeros, and I.S. Reeds. She was midwife for Dr. Greenberg on several occasions. For several years she was cook in the Irma Hotel for Frank and Irene Drewicki. One fall she worked for Ernie Peterson on a cook car for a threshing crew, and took as payment the cook car, which was the start of our present home. Later, the boys, Mel and Rudy, built on to the house with the help of the Rev. Longmire and Ches. Feero, and still later the upstairs was added. Dad passed away in March of 1943. Mel and Rudy took over the responsibilities of helping Mom keep the home together and much credit is due them.

Vera, who spent fifteen years in India as a missionary, was forced by ill health to come home. She worked as a secretary at Wainwright Elementary School and helped make home more pleasant for Mel and Rudy, as by now Mom was in a home in Viking. Mom passed away at the ripe old age of ninety-five in July of 1975. Lillian has been a missionary in the Netherlands Antilles for twenty-five years. She took a leave-of-absence in January of 1978 as she was needed at home due to Rudy and Vera's illness. Rudy passed away in February 1978 and Vera in January 1979. Lillian returned to the missionfield in October of 1979.

An addition was made to the family home. My husband retired from Imperial Oil after thirty-seven years and came home to Irma to live and care for the home we love dearly, also for company and to care for Mel.

Gordon and I were married at the C.L. Feero home, which is now the home of Bob Dempsey. We have two daughters, Janice (Mrs. Philip Sheltens) of Crossfield, Lenore (Mrs. Roger Leclaire) of Didsbury, and a son Grant of Calgary.

Thea, who married Joe McMann at Ribstone, now lives in Wainwright. Gunda married Todd Coulter at Bannerman, Manitoba, and now lives at Richmond, B.C. Henry married Garnet in Kansas. He came to Canada but returned a short time later and served fifteen years in the United States peacetime Army. He passed away in July of 1959. Carl, known to all in Irma, had many friends. He did many odd jobs around Irma for many people. He spent a short time in the Army, and one fall he went east to harvest. He passed away in September of 1971. Madeline married Leo McMann at Ribstone where they still live. Laurence married Margaret Clark. He served in the Army, and spent part of that time overseas. He works at Camp Wainwright as a Commissionaire, and lives in Fabyan. Olive married Bob Williams in Edmonton and they are still living there. Lester married Hazel DeFrain at Wainwright, served in the Canadian Army and was killed in action in 1944. Alice married Ed Sharkey of Irma. Her main concern was her family. She worked for a while at the Irma Hotel and as a cook in the Officers' Mess at Camp Wainwright in later years. She passed away in January of 1980.

MR. AND MRS. ADAM MILES

by Eileen Miles

Mr. and Mrs. Adam Miles arrived in Irma in 1936. Although like most survivors of the hungry thirties and World War Two they were not overly endowed with this world's riches, but that which they lacked in material wealth, was richly compensated by their care and concern towards their family and neighbors. Mrs. Miles especially seemed to have an inborn love for children and was never happier than when surrounded by little ones. Mr. and Mrs. Miles raised nine children, having lost one daughter in infancy. The eldest son Fred and wife Pearl also moved to Irma. He helped some farmers and later found employment in Edmonton. Pearl passed away in 1943, leaving Fred with one small son Kenneth. Several years later Fred met and married a bonnie Scottish girl from Edinburgh. This marriage produced five sons and four daughters. Fred worked for Allied Van Lines for several years but retired early due to ill health. He passed away October 3rd, 1977.

Margaret married Bill McNall and they farmed in the Jarrow district. Margaret gave birth to a son and a daughter. Margaret died during the war years at the age of twenty-six. Her son Alvin passed away at Thunder Bay, Ontario in 1979 at the age of forty-four years.

Norman met and married Helen Rochet while working in Westlock. Later they moved to Fawcett and then back to Irma. Norman enlisted in the Canadian Army in World War Two and was killed in action in France in 1944. He left his wife and three sons at home.

Arthur worked for Savilles for several years. They had a large cattle ranch southeast of Irma. He later met and married Edith Lancaster of Kinsella. For several years they farmed southwest of Kinsella. They had one son and one daughter. After their children were married Art and Edith gave up farming and moved to Edmonton, where Art is still employed as a truck driver with a construction company.

Norval was employed by local farmers. He was briefly married to Jenny Knicely and they had one daughter. Norval later made his home with his mum and dad and worked on heavy equipment in construction. Norval later moved to Viking and worked for the County of Beaver. He passed away Sept./83.



Mr. Adam Miles splitting wood at Irma.

Works Every Time

The best way of getting

A little boy's ear

Is by whispering words

You don't want him to hear. — Hal Chadwick

Willie enlisted in the Canadian Army Service Corp, where he served in Italy and other parts of Europe, including Scotland. There he met and married Clara, a bonnie lass from Glasgow in 1946. Willie and Clara settled in Irma for a while after the war. They later moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba where they now reside. They have five sons and one daughter.

Roy, whose name is Charles, prefers to be known as Roy. Like his brothers before him was born at Greenglades, near Provost. He attended Irma school for a year or two and did chores for some local people - Mr. Reeds, who for many years was principal of the Irma school, and Mr. Pond who ran the local restaurant. He later worked for Henry Kasten who farmed southwest of Irma. Later he enlisted in the 22nd Royal Edmonton Regiment and served overseas in Italy, Holland, Germany and England. There he met Eileen Dyer who was serving as a nursing orderly with the R.A.F. They were married in 1945 and have two daughters and three sons. Roy was employed by Alberta Transportation for thirty years and lives in Irma.

Ruby was born in Provost. She was raised on the homestead at Greenglades. Later she went to work for the wife of Henry Nickels. Ruby moved to Irma with her family in 1936 and stayed at home with them until her marriage to Floyd Bronson of Hardisty in 1947. They settled on a farm north of Hardisty. They moved to Wainwright where they lived for a few years, finally settling in Hardisty where they still reside. They have one son Harold.

George, the youngest, was born in 1928 and moved to Irma with his family. After leaving school he worked at some of the district farms, eventually obtaining employment in Edmonton with his brother Fred, as a helper for a moving-van company. George passed away suddenly after a brief illness at the University Hospital, Edmonton, at the age of twenty-six years.

Evelyn Marie, chosen daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Miles, joined the family in June, 1943. She was educated in Irma school until she married Danny Swain of Mannville in 1957. Evelyn and Danny lived in Mannville for several years and then moved to an acreage at Bruderheim. There they raised their family of four sons and one daughter,

where they still reside.

Kenny, a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Miles and son of Fred and his first wife Pearl, joined the family in the fall of 1943. He also was educated in the Irma school. Kenny liked nothing better than helping Gage Pendleton in his garage. For a while he worked at a lumber mill and was also employed at Wainwright Army Camp. In 1965 Kenny married Shirley Brokop of Viking and settled in Edmonton. They later bought an acreage east of Ellerslie and built their home, where they now live with their two sons.

In 1958 Sarah and Adam Miles celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary (one year late) in the Irma Legion Hall, with many relations and friends. Telegrams were received from the Prime Minister of Canada, John Diefenbaker, Cliff Smallwood, our Battle River representative in Ottawa, also from the Premier of Alberta, Ernest Manning. In the fall of 1962 the Miles retired to Vialta Lodge in Viking. In August of 1967 they celebrated their diamond wedding quietly, with members of the family at Vialta Lodge. After a long and busy life, Sarah passed peacefully away in Viking Hospital in November of that same year. In the spring of 1968, Adam moved to his daughter's home in Wainwright, but later entered the Auxiliary Hospital where he resided until his death in February, 1975, just two weeks short of his ninety-first birthday.



Mrs. Miles and Evelyn at Irma Station (note cream cans).



Clara and Willie with baby, Billie.



Mr. and Mrs. Miles celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in 1967.



S.C. Miles, our first oat crop, 1910.

S.C. MILES FAMILY SIDNEY AND MARGARET

by Alma (Miles) Enger

In 1884 Father's family immigrated to Canada from England settling at Lindsay, Ontario. In 1899 Dad went to Toronto to work with his older brother, Walter. Here he met Margaret Stewart, whose family had emigrated from near Ayr, Scotland. They were married in 1904.

By 1907 and 1908 homestead land was well advertised in Eastern Canada. At that time Dad was working with Mr. H.W. Love moving houses. Late in 1908 they both, accompanied by Mom's brothers - Walter and William (Billy) Stewart - came out "West" to look the situation over. Mr. Love and Dad decided the West was the place to be.

In February 1909 they brought out their settlers' effects from Ontario by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. As the trains weren't running through Irma yet the engineer agreed to push the freight cars ahead of the engine as far as possible from Wainwright. Theirs were the first cars of settlers' effects to cross the Battle River Bridge. They ended up in a snowbank at Farrell's crossing a little more than three miles southeast of Irma. The menfolk unloaded their belongings into the snowbank and hauled them to Mr. Love's farm which was the S.W. 5-46-8-4. The freight cars weren't picked up until about the end of May. Dad filed on his homestead on March 22, 1909. It was the S.E. of 32-45-8-4.

Mother, Margaret and I came to Hardisty by C.P.R. on April 1, 1909. Dad wasn't there to meet us as he hadn't gotten her letter until a couple of days later. Mother was ready to go back to Toronto. On the third day the hotel manager came rushing up to our room to tell Mother that a man from Irma was there. She hurried downstairs to meet Dad only to discover the man wasn't Dad but Jack Tate. However he told Mother that Dad would be there the next day.

On the way to Irma we had to ford Iron Creek. It was high and running quite fast. Margaret and I were sitting on the floor of the buggy in front of the dashboard. The water came through the cracks in the floor of the buggy and we were lifted up onto the seat while Mom and Dad sat up on the high back of the seat. When we got to the farm there were three bachelors - Emil Wirth, Baptiste Wirth, and Tom Wood waiting for a woman to make supper. Mr. Love and Dad came to her rescue.

Having grown up in the city there was a lot to learn about life on the farm. One day Mom was going to make butter. She put the cream into the barrel churn and clamped down the lid. Using the foot pedal and the hand lever she was gaily turning the churn round and round when all at once the bung flew out of the churn and the cream flew all over the ceiling, walls, and floor. Dad had forgotten to tell her to open the lid a few times to let the gas escape. Poor Mother, this certainly wasn't the life she expected and it didn't appeal to her then. She was ready to go back to Toronto.

We spent the summer of 1909 at Mr. Love's farm while a house was being built on our own land. Dad got fifteen acres broken that summer too. He sowed oats in the spring of 1910 and harvested a good crop that fall.

Previous to 1912 this area was a Local Improvement District. Dad was Secretary for this and I remember folk coming from a distance to pay their taxes.

Dad was always interested in education and served on School Boards for many years. He took an active part in getting the Irma Rural High School started. Mother knit many pairs of socks and mittens for our bachelor neighbors. Some of these were Jim MacIlroy, Joe Hammond, Everett Chappelle, Tom Wood and George Higginson.

Getting to school in the early days was a bit difficult because the schools would be closed for one reason or another. By the time I was nine years old I had attended Sunny Brae (the home school) Irma, and Roseberry Schools.

Dad and Mom continued farming in the Irma district until November 1933 when they decided to move to B.C. Neither one had good health. They went to Comox on Vancouver Island.

There were five children in the family. Alma, Margaret born in Toronto, Charlie, Clara and Mary born at Irma. Margaret taught school for four years before marrying George Armstrong. He was a rider in the Buffalo Park. For a few years they lived on a farm just across the Battle River from Lewisville School before moving to Wainwright. The Buffalo Park closed in 1940 and George joined the Services. When George went overseas Margaret and their two daughters moved to Vancouver. She took a Business Course and worked in various offices. After George returned from overseas they moved to Nanaimo, V.I. After George passed away in 1967 she moved back to Vancouver to be nearer the girls. She passed away in 1969. Kathleen, the oldest girl, lives in North Burnaby. They have two sons. At present she is a judge for the Citizenship Courts in B.C. Margaret (Marge) and her husband, who is retired, live near Princeton. They have three daughters.

Charlie went to Comox with Mom and Dad in 1933. He continued to live in B.C. He was married but had no family. He was overseas for four years. On his return he took a shoe repair course and had a shoe store for several years. He passed away in 1976.

Clara married George Dawson, a cousin of Mr. Locke's. They farmed at Hythe for a few years before moving to Beaverlodge. Here George worked at the Experimental Farm. Clara worked at the Singer Sewing Machine Shop in Grande Prairie. When George retired they moved to Victoria. Two years later they moved to Abbotsford, B.C. Here they both are very active in Community affairs. They have a son Donald. He lives on Vancouver Island.

Mary also went to Comox with Mom and Dad. She has resided in B.C. ever since. She married James Bond and lived many years in the Hedley and Princeton areas. They have a family of six - two sons and four daughters. They all live in B.C. Mary lives at Merritt, B.C.

While Dad was in Vancouver he was in partnership with Mr. Moore, a real estate businessman. He continued in this work until his death in March 1960.

Mother passed away in Vancouver in 1934.



Sid and Margaret Miles and wee Margaret and Alma taken in Dec. 1908 just before Sid left Toronto to come to Alberta.



Sid. Miles (right) & Fred Jackson (left) putting up prairie hay in 1911.



S.C. Miles: 1911. Uncle Fred, Aunt Nell Jackson, Maggie Miles, Charlie in arms, Sid. (Seated) Alma Miles, Maye Jackson, Margaret Miles.



Milburn: Jack Tate, Mr. and Mrs. Milburn, W. Riese.



Margaret Millar

J.C. MARGARET MILLAR

by J.C. Margaret Millar

Irma school in Wainwright School Division was where I finished my thirty-five years of teaching in Alberta on June 30th, 1972. In January, 1955 I taught Sligo School, northeast of Wainwright, moved to Jarrow school 1955-56 and into Irma, September, 1956 where grade three was my class.

Elsie McRoberts came on staff that year also, and was a great influence and help to my son George in grade five. Later Kathleen (Yunker) Green kept his interest keen in grades VII, VIII and IX. After high school he attended N.A.I.T. for two years and began employment with the City of Edmonton Social Services Department in 1971. Each year he takes an evening course at University of Alberta, working towards his degree. Baseball and curling were George's chief interests. The rink of John Blades, Emory Darling, Arnold Barton and George won many prizes at bonspiels in the area. I was suddenly awakened one Sunday morning when the reservoir exploded, my first thought being "George has driven through the garage". I was wrong, thank goodness.

George and Patricia Rubis, R.N., were married in 1969. They developed an acreage, built a new home, sold it all and bought another home in Millwoods. Here they now reside with their two sons, Lee, born in 1977, and Blair, born in 1979. George coaches hockey and soccer for juniors, helps in community projects, while Pat nurses part-time in the General Hospital.

Bill, my elder son, joined the Navy after grade ten. He and Gary Hubman left for Halifax the day of the Music Festival in Wainwright, a day of mixed feelings for me. After three years he left the navy, worked on various construction projects until he was employed by Edmonton Transit System for ten years. He is now employed by Chemical Engineering Development Association, Industrial Cleaning Services. After transfers to Innisfail, Devon, Whitecourt and finally to Ed-



Donna and Bill with girls, Melissa and Terri. Patricia and George with Lee and Blair.

monton, he and his wife Donna (Lovig) now reside in Millwoods. Their two daughters, Terri, born April, 1971 and Melissa, born December, 1972, hope for no more moves until they finish high school.

I really enjoyed my years in Irma where I formed many lasting friendships. We were such a stable staff for about sixteen years with D.G. Gunn as principal. Leaving my Irma home is my one regret.

After retirement in 1972 I substituted for Genon Astley off and on during Ross's illness and subsequent death in 1973. Babysitting was another pastime - Creasy twins,

Nathan Spinaze, Kim Glasgow, H.J. and Shari Desjarlais. I was in my element then, such a rewarding experience! Bowling then became a new activity for me. Thanks to Georgina and Martin Enger who took me to the lanes in Wainwright. I am still enjoying the game in Camrose.

I'm pleased "New Horizons" is still very active. It seems many years since the first executive, D.H. Gunn, president, Alma Enger, secretary and I as treasurer, was formed at a Royal Purple Social for Seniors. The "Proms", weddings and visits to Irma have enabled me to meet many former students. They recognize me, but what a time I have to name, correctly, these young ladies and gentlemen.

Fitness, bowling and discing keep me on the move, while volunteering at Rosehaven Care Centre and Golden Club rounds off my days.

WILLIAM MILLAR

William and Helen Millar came to the Batt district from Rothsay, Scotland in 1925, and farmed about six miles northeast of Kinsella.

They had six children when they arrived; Sadie, Andrew, Isabelle, Hugh, Ella and James. The youngest, a daughter, Christina was born in 1926 and the oldest, a daughter, Marion was married and still living in Scotland. She later moved to Saskatoon where she still lives. She was married to Alex McFie and was widowed in 1972.

All the children with the exception of the three oldest attended Batt school.

The family lived on the same farm until the parents moved to Edmonton in 1942 where they lived until they passed away, William in 1970 age 85, and Helen in 1971 at age 86. At the time of their death they had 15 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Sadie was married to Mansell Reese of Hardisty in 1927 and was widowed in 1937. She was remarried to Jack Houston of Edmonton in 1945 and they had one son William.

Andrew served overseas in the 2nd World War. He returned in 1945 and in 1957 he married Edith Rice of Edmonton. They had no children. Andrew died in 1977.

Isabelle was married in 1939 to George Littlejohn of Edmonton and they had one son George. Isabelle died in 1973.

Hugh married Clara Codd of the Minburn District in 1942 and they had four children; Gloria, William, Raymond and Barry.

Ella married Harvey Guiltner of Irma in 1941 and they had three children; Faye, Ronald and Bradley.

James married Margaret Craig of Edmonton in 1954 and they had one son, Glen.

Christina married Leonard Bone of Edmonton in 1946 and they had three children; Danile, Sandra and Laura. Christina was widowed in 1974 and was remarried in 1978 to Joseph Doherty of Edmonton.

All the remaining children of William and Helen Millar except the oldest daughter, Marion, still live in Edmonton.

CHARLES MILLER

by Marguerite Burr

Charlie Miller was born and raised in Iowa. He tried his hand at many occupations before drifting across the border in 1903 to what was then known as North-West Territories. He worked for three years as a cowhand on the Bar-U-Ranch west of Stavely.

In 1906 he came to spend the winter with his sister and husband Charlie and Lizzie Strickland northeast of Loughheed. In the spring of 1907 he filed on a claim of his own N.W. 24-44-10-W4th, and soon established a ranch. The land, for the most part, was open range and Charlie decided to make use of it. He built up a herd of about two hundred and fifty head of cattle ranging over an area bounded by Hardisty, Loughheed, Jarrow and Irma.

By 1916 Charlie practically phased out his ranching operation. The open range land had virtually disappeared so he drove the remnant of his herd to Hardisty to be loaded on stock cars for shipment to Winnipeg. He sold his homestead to Jack Slade an English remittance man.

In 1916 Charlie married Edith (King) Kelly who had been married with two children Arthur and Ada. They lived in the states for awhile, but after the hard winter of 1919-20 was forced to return to Canada to take back his homestead when Mr. Slade returned to England.

While living in Missouri a son William and a daughter Maureen were born. In 1921 Marguerite was born, followed by Leona in 1922, completing the family. The Miller kids attended Melbrae school. Bill Miller took over the farm from his parents but in 1948 he sold out and moved to Hardisty and became a mechanic. In the late sixties he moved to Kansas where he still resides. Maureen worked for the Alberta Government before joining the C.W.A.C.'s in 1941. She is a widow and lives in Edmonton. Marguerite became a teacher, teaching at Silver Lane, Ross and Batt. She married Earl Burr and lives in the Batt district. Leona worked for the Edmonton Journal before marrying Jack Harwood and they live in Burnaby, B.C.

Arthur passed away in 1968, Ada in 1974, Charlie and Edith passed away in 1952.



Miller family, 1925, Edith (mother), Billy, Maureen, Marguerite and Leona. Charlie (father).

PERCY MILLER

by Kathleen Miller

I, Sarah Kathleen Elizabeth (Barss) Miller was the third child of Layton Harlent Barss and Mary Elizabeth (Pyle) Barss, born in August, 1919, at the farm home one mile north of the Albert school.

The teacher in our school district at that time was Kathleen Reeves - the future Mrs. Leigh Currie. She stayed with my parents for a while when I was born to help my mother, so she wanted me to be named after her. My other names were after my paternal and maternal grandmothers.

The first winter of my life was the long hard winter when the terrible flu was raging. My father was very ill with double pneumonia, but he made it through when many others didn't. Being the oldest girl in a family of five, I learned household and farm duties at an early age in order to help my parents during the depression years. I also helped my grandfather and grandmother Pyle. I have many vivid memories of going to Irma with my grandmother with her horse Jenny and the buggy. My grandmother made the best butter and got the heart-breaking price of thirty-five cents per pound for all the hard work involved. Her beautiful fresh, clean eggs would bring her seven to ten cents a dozen. This trip was an all day event, travelling the thirteen miles each way to town. I remember one time I was very angry at Jenny. I rode her to school and had to go through gates to make a shortcut to my grandparent's place. As I was closing the gate, the reins slipped out of my hands and Jenny took off. I hollered for her to stop and every time I got nearly to her, she would take off again. This continued all the way home and she ran up into her stall in the barn with me following, exhausted from trying to catch her. I made sure after that that I hung on to the reins securely whenever I rode her.

We never got very far from our own district, but have very happy memories of the good times we had at the Saturday afternoon ball games and picnics after the crops were in from spring until harvest time. In the winter we had the social evenings each Friday night in our school where we had card parties and then danced until two or three in the morning. In the summer months church services were held in our school. My namesake's father, Mr. Reeves, would come down from near Mannville to conduct these services for many years. In later years the minister from Irma would come to our school to hold the church services and arrange for Sunday School classes.

Another happy memory which I now look back on longingly, was the peaceful Sundays, when it was truly a day of rest. We would catch up on the news and current events from the Winnipeg Free Press, the Family Herald and the Western Producer. We read many good books or visited with neighbors. In the evening mother would gather us together to sing, even though we didn't have a musical instrument in our home. If we went to our grandparent's, Grandpa Pyle would get out his accordion and we would all sing for him. Monday morning we would be refreshed and ready for a long hard week of work.

On October 25th, 1939, I married Percy E. Miller who



Percy and Kathleen going visiting by sleigh in the Albert district.

had rented Grandpa and Grandma Pyle's farm as they sold their belongings and moved to B.C. For that first winter we moved to Dick and Lila Rohrer's farm home in the Lynx School district to look after their place and animals, while they spent the winter in B.C. As the roads were never kept open once they became impassable with snow, we travelled with team and cutter to the socials and hockey games in our own Albert district.

To our marriage three children were born, Maurice, Esther and Kenneth. A set of twin boys were born prematurely and died shortly after birth.

In 1960 we rented our farm and I moved to Wainwright where I looked after a dormitory for the Wainwright School Division which was opened so children having problems in their regular classes were able to get help in the opportunity class in the Lola Mabey school at Wainwright. Percy took up carpenter work in the surrounding district and later in Saskatchewan.

Our son, Maurice, married Sandra Woodward in 1967. They have three children, Shelley, Brent and Wade, and live five miles west of Wainwright. Maurice operates a T.V. shop and he and Sandra raise Appaloosa horses.

In 1967, Esther, Kenneth and I moved to Red Deer. Esther works at the Michener Centre here and Kenneth is a licensed mechanic and bus driver for Prairie School Bus Lines Ltd.

Percy Miller was killed in a car accident in November, 1981. I work for an Insurance Agency at this time of writing.



Grandma and Grandpa Pyles home, later rented to Percy and Kathleen Miller.



Percy and Kathleen Miller's twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, October 25th, 1965. Son, Maurice, Esther and Kenneth.

MAUDE (SMALLWOOD) MILLS

Maude (Smallwood) Mills was born on the farm home May 30, 1910, a month after her folks and Alex arrived from New Brunswick. She got her education in Irma. In 1933 she received her R.N. at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. She married Ernest Mills in 1933. Ernie worked as foreman in the C.N.R. yards in Calder in Edmonton and at Hanna. Later they moved to Drumheller where Maude nursed for several years before they retired to Calgary. Maude still lives in Calgary. Ernie passed away in 1980.

Maude remembers with great interest the Chautauquas that would come to Irma every year giving a week's entertainment. They would set up huge tents to entertain in. There were musicians, dancers, singers, lecturers and usually two three-act plays. It was excellent entertainment and all towns looked forward to their arrival.

Ernie and Maude have three children, Erna, Audrey and Bob. The children spent nearly all their summer holidays at their grandparents' farm and just loved it; so did their cousins, the Cliff Smallwood children. They would be back and forth between the two farms doing everything children can dream up.

The older girl Erna is a nurse. She is married to Tom Holliday of Elk Point and they have three children. Bobby Anne is a pharmacist and is married to Glen Stasyk of St. Paul. They have a girl and a boy. Timmy is an electrician and is at present working in Elk Point. Audrey is a physiotherapist, is married and working at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton.

Audrey Marie, the second daughter took a nurses' aid course and is at present a receptionist in a doctor's office in Calgary. She married Ed Mantik of Bruce who works for Shell Oil. They have two sons, Daryl and Douglas. Daryl is an electrician and Doug finished school last year and works in Calgary.

Robert George was in the navy for three years. He now works for Husky Oil in Lloydminster. He and his wife have three children. Donna is working in Lloydminster and Diane and Kevin are still in school.



Ernie and Maude (Smallwood) Mills and Family: Ernie, Audrey, Bob, Erna, and Maude.



Audrey (Mills) Mantik and Ed, Daryl and Doug.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLIE MILNE

by Charlie and Annie Milne

Charlie and Annie Milne arrived in Irma in June 1933. Charlie had been appointed as agent for the United Grain Growers Ltd. at Irma.

Charlie was born at Craik, Saskatchewan on November 24, 1906. The fourth child of James G. and Ina Milne (Nee Adams) who were both born and raised in the London, Ontario area.

J.G. Milne came west to Regina in 1889, a town of about 500. The R.C.N.W.M. Police Headquarters for the Territories, and locally called "pile-of-bones" for the huge piles of Buffalo bones along the C.P.R. tracks, gathered by bone buyers for shipment East.

James Milne and Ina Adams were married in 1889 and spent the rest of their lives in Western Canada. The family moved to Alberta in 1909 to Gleichen, then in 1911 to Calgary and finally to Coronation in 1914 to a farm 5 miles south of the town.

Charlie got his education at Sounding Creek school and the Coronation High School. He started as agent for the United Grain Growers at Boyle, Alberta in August, 1928, to Mearns, Alberta in 1929 and then to Innisfree in 1930.

Annie was born at Innisfree, Alberta on April 1, 1912. The fifth child of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wusyk, who came to Canada from the Ukraine in 1905 and settled on a farm in the Buczac district ten miles north of Innisfree. Annie

received her education at the Buczacz school, and lived in the Innisfree district until her marriage to Charlie on June 26, 1933.

Immediately after the wedding, Charlie and Annie Milne came to Irma where they have made their home since.

Charlie and Annie raised a family of four daughters; Charlotte Ann, Mrs. Lou Golka of Hardisty, who have one daughter Luanne, and two sons, Brian and Kevin. Luanne is married to Dwight Nixon, they live at Kitscoty, and have two small sons; Patricia Mae, Mrs. P.M. Bell, lives in Edmonton; Elizabeth Jean, Mrs. Dennis Schmidt of Hardisty, Alberta, who have one daughter, Jill-Ann, and one son Gregory; Mary Lynn who lives in Edmonton and has one son Donovan.

Charlie managed the United Grain Growers Ltd. Elevator at Irma from June 27, 1933 to July 10, 1941, when he enlisted in the R.C.A.F. as an Aero Engine Mechanic. Was discharged from the Service on September 28, 1945, returned home and resumed his work as U.G.G. agent on November 1, 1945. Resigned as Agent of the U.G.G. at Irma on July 1, 1961, on receiving the appointment as postmaster at Irma, retiring from this position on November 24, 1971.

Annie made a home for her husband and raised her family with love, diligence, care and pride, kept the home fires burning brightly while Charlie was away in the Service during the war. With the children no longer small, received the appointment as assistant postmistress at Irma on July 1, 1961, a position she filled with distinction. She loved her work and was loved and respected by all the people she served. She retired on December 31, 1976, very regretfully.

Charlie and Annie were very active in all aspects of the community life. Both are Charter members of the Curling Club and Golf Club, they gave unstinting support of the building and operation of both.

Annie is the premier golfer of the Ladies Golf Club, she has won many major trophies at our local club and many more at the Clubs in surrounding towns, as well she won the Alberta Championship for women over sixty-five at the 1980 Summer Games at Camrose. She has a large array of Trophies to attest to her curling skills also.

The family all participated in all types of sports, actively as their talents permitted, and as faithful fans otherwise. Charlie served one three-year term on the Village Council, was a long-time member of the Irma and District Chamber of Commerce, serving three terms as Secretary and one as President. A Charter member of the Irma Lodge No. 366 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and a member, since January 1, 1946 of the Irma Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, for which he served as Secretary-Treasurer for over fifteen years.

The Irma District has always been a bustling, active community and a very friendly community. We are pleased that we came to Irma and made our home here. We cherish the many friends we have made here. There are so many good memories of the past fifty years. We are content to spend our sunset years at Irma, our home and roots are here, we find it is a good place to call "home".

Charlie passed away September 1985.

WILLIAM AND REBECCA MILTON

by Jessie Milton McFarland

In the fall of 1919 William and Rebecca Milton, with sons Willie and John, arrived from Edmonton to homestead in the Battle Heights district. The following winter was long and very cold with great drifts of snow covering the fences and closing the roads. Rebecca wondered why she ever left the city for a farm, so far away from the nearest town of Irma.

The spring of 1920 they welcomed a new addition to the family, a daughter, Jessie. Dr. Wallace drove from Wainwright by horse and cutter to deliver the baby. He was assisted by our very helpful neighbor Rae Adams. Jessie's birth was registered at "Clark Manor" a land mark at that time.

Bill Milton joined the Irma Legion driving by team with neighbor George Batchelor, to attend monthly meetings. Rebecca joined the Ladies Aid and enjoyed many a cup of tea with Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. McLean, Mrs. MacMillan and many more farm ladies. The Miltons were very aggressive people and soon loved the farm.

Our Dad was proud of the land and his huge plow horses and Mom of her lovely garden and chickens. Dad was a member of the Battle Heights school board for many years. They took a keen interest in their family's education.

The long winter evenings were spent playing cards with our neighbors. Red Cross dances every Friday night at the school added great entertainment. Mom contributed by making cream cans of delicious coffee and sandwiches. Dad helped by playing the accordion for the dance. Saturday nights we all enjoyed "Hockey Night in Canada", that was if our battery-powered radio didn't fail. After many rewarding years on the same farm and raising a family of six, Willie, John, Jessie, Mary, Bob and Annie, our folks bought a house in Wainwright and retired. Here they lived until Daddy passed away in 1963, age 82. Mom moved to the Battle River Lodge and passed away in 1975, age 86.

Willie married Deloraine Stockton. They live in Penticton, B.C. and have no children.

John married Emma Hughes - they live in Edmonton.



December, 1951. Left to Right: William and Rebecca Milton, Hugh and Rae Adams.

They have three children - Jack, Wayne and Karen.

Jessie married Allan McFarland - they live in Wainwright. To this union was born a daughter, Barbara Ann.

Mary married Frank Crabb. To this union was born a daughter, Judy Mary. Mary Crabb, a dear sister, passed away in March, 1945.

Bob married Rhoda Headon - they live in Wainwright. They had eight children, Mary, Larry, John, Shirley, Robert, Bonnie, Barbara and Doreen. Larry passed away October 3rd, 1979 following a tragic accident.

Annie married Clarence Fraser - they live in Wainwright. They have a family of five children, Donna, Darrell, Lionel, Linda and Brenda.

G.W. MITCHELL FAMILY

George Washington Mitchell was known to most people as Bob Mitchell. He came from Texas and homesteaded on SE 2-45-9. He married Dora Bear, Buster Reed's mother's sister. Bob Mitchell's sister was married to Buster Reed's grandfather. Bob Mitchell and his wife had two boys, Wayne and Wendell. Bob was active in community life and was appointed to the Irma High School Board for the year 1922.

Wendell taught school at Strawberry Plains for a time and also taught in the Peace River country. He spent some time in the United States Navy. Wayne farmed and later did some mining. Bob died in 1933 and was buried in the Irma cemetery. Dora and the two boys went to the States. Wayne was killed in a mining accident and Wendell died of emphysema. Dora passed away while in the States as well.

Henry Fenton lives on the Mitchell place now.

WILLIAM GILBERT MITCHELL

by Archie Fleming

Shorty, as he was known, lived in Mannville, and was an Engineer on the old C.N.R. His wife's name was Rheba Jane and was of Indian descent.

Shorty told of one time when placing cars, there were some cars there with some men in the caboose some distance away. He gave one of the box cars a good bump and it went and hit the caboose with quite a force. The men came out of the caboose yelling "You nearly killed us!" and came to get him. All Shorty could do was to run across the prairie. He said he never ran that fast before. He got fired for being so reckless.

Another time his son Gilbert needed a suit so he told him to go down to the store and spot a suit his size and he would be there in a short time. When Shorty went in, there was nobody except themselves and the owner Max Goffman. The rope for sale came up from the basement through holes in the floor, so Shorty grabbed the end of one of the ropes and headed out the back door with the owner in pursuit. While this was happening Gilbert took the suit and went out the front door. This is the way Shorty told it and knowing him as I did, anything could happen.

They left Mannville and came south to settle on N.W. 10-48-9. He was hauling bundles for a threshing outfit

owned by Dave Ambler at our place. When he came in for supper he left the horses hooked up to the wagon in front of our house. While he was eating the team ran away but that didn't worry Shorty. He finished supper and walked about one and a half miles home. About midnight, he and his wife were back for the horses and she was calling him lots of names for letting her team run away.

Another time when George Hardy (Ivan and Allen's Dad) was at Shorty's place and they were in the straw barn, Rheba came out of the house and called "William, dear, come here." Shorty said not to pay attention to her. Pretty soon the dears were all gone and she started calling him Shorty and from there she went to "Shorty Mitchell you old so and so come out of that barn!"

In 1919 they put up a lot of prairie (wool) hay as there was lots of open range land and lots of grass. They wintered cattle for Ross Phillopei.

This being the hard winter of 1919-1920 it started with a foot of snow on the 8th of October and lasted into May. They had one hundred and thirty-five head to winter but by the time spring came ninety head were dead. They lost a lot of money as feed was selling at a high price before spring.

They had eight children when they left here and went to Lac La Biche. Their names were Dolly, Gilbert, Roy, Emma, John, Charlie, Ethel, David and Ross. Dolly went to Edmonton and married a man who would buy up used furniture and make any parts that were missing. Gilbert worked in the oil fields at Turner Valley and was killed in a car accident. John was killed when working on the Alaska Highway.

PETE AND IVY MOLLIER

by Ivy Mollier

In 1936 Pete and I came to Minburn from Saskatchewan to my Dad's place, Dick Daniels. Dad wished us to come home to be married. We were married in the wee Anglican Church in Mannville and spent our honeymoon at Grandpa Daniels at Innisfree. During the "Dirty Thirties" there was little money to spend.

In 1937 Pete went to work for the Swayne brothers for twenty dollars per month and worked there seven days a week for four years. He later worked for William Revill for thirty-five dollars per month and in each case we had to maintain our own home. The next year we worked for T.A. Cox for fifty dollars a month.

By this time we'd gathered a few cows and horses together, so moved back to the George Faulkner farm in the Rodino district for the winter. In the spring we rented Tom Wood's farm on shares of both cattle and grain. As our livestock was increasing, we decided to purchase the DeVos farm - our first home. We were either dried out or frozen out so our cows kept us going.

In the fall I started working in the Red and White store in Kinsella. The wages helped to keep us alive. For twenty-six years Pete worked every fall for Bert Armitage. We sold the farm to Andy White and moved to live over Frank Murray's store. Town life didn't suit Pete so we rented Mulawka's farm for two years. Next we

rented Ian Daniels' farm for four years, milking twenty-three cows and trying to farm. Ian sold this land to Archie Stuart, so back to town we went to live in the teacherage.

Pete wasn't happy in town so we bought the Con Powell farm at Camp Lake, where we still live. We began to farm again on a small scale. Things have changed since we moved here; a campsite has been developed and the roads improved. We are happy here in our retirement among good friends and neighbors. We are interested in community affairs and see no need for a further move.



Del Anderson, Ivy and Pete Mollier at Big Knife Park.

JOSEPH M. MOORE FAMILY

by John Moore

J.M. Moore came from the United States in 1903 and settled in the New Norway district. In 1910 he moved to Jarrow and settled on a farm two miles north of Jarrow where Len Skori now lives. The barn that Joe built is still on the farm. The two and a half story house has now had the top story removed.

J.M. and Mary Moore had five sons, Ray, Earl, Artie, Leslie and Glen, all born in the United States.

When they moved to Jarrow, they had one hundred and twenty head of cattle and forty head of horses. Because of the shortage of water they cut the herd of cattle to forty head and increased to one hundred and fifty horses. Granddad sold a lot of horses to the railway when it was laid by Jarrow and Kinsella. He helped his sons get started, and when my mother died in 1922 Grandma and Granddad helped Dad (Earl) take care of my sister and myself. We lived with them until the fall of 1925. I rode a pony to Jarrow to school to take grade one.

In the fall of 1925 they moved to the Batt Valley. Ray Moore moved on the farm near Jarrow. My father Earl married Mary Francis and we moved back to Dad's farm in the valley.

When Granddad bought his first tractor he traded eighteen head of horses and no cash for his 18-36 Hart-Parr tractor.



Joseph Moore family.

Then in 1928 Grandma passed away after living a very active life in the community and doing church work.

At this time Leslie and Mable Moore moved back to the farm three quarters of a mile south of Batt school and Granddad spent the rest of his life until 1940 with his sons.

Ray Moore married Nellie Mathews on April 6th, 1923. They had a double wedding with Ray's brother Glen and Nellie's sister Jennie getting married the same day. Ray and Nellie Moore had three children. Rhodina, and Raymond who live in the States and Beryl who lives in Calgary. They were on the Moore farm near Jarrow for several years before moving to British Columbia.

Glen and Jennie Moore had four children, Gordon who was killed during World War II. Their three other children Betty and twin boys Bob and Dick live in the States.

My father Earl Moore who graduated from high school and took Normal School in Edmonton, taught for two years at Echo school. Then he decided to go farming so he bought the quarter one mile east of Batt school, where Tobe Smith has lived for years. In September, 1917 he married Mary Francis the teacher at Batt school. They told me that before they would hire her she had to sign a paper that she would not get married until her year of teaching was up. She did get married the fall after the year was up though. They had two children Hazel and myself John. My mother passed away in September 1922 when I was four years old. Grandma and Granddad came to the rescue on the part of their family and took care of Hazel and me. Grandma was a very bright community-minded person who took a great deal of interest in the church, so helping to bring us up for the next three years was second nature to her and a help to Dad. While living with them near Jarrow in 1924 I went to school two miles on a pony. That pony was more to my liking than school.

In 1926 Earl Moore started a polled hereford herd and I am carrying on with this herd yet. We showed cattle at

both Irma and Viking in the late twenties. Then they started the school fairs in Irma and in 1932 I was lucky enough to win a trip to Olds Agriculture School. This was very similar to 4-H club week at Vermilion these days.

In 1925 Dad married Mable Francis and we moved back to the farm in the valley and lived there until 1933 when I finished grade nine and we moved to Tofield. Mable passed away in 1934.

Dad married for the third time in 1937 and had three more children, Glen, Wayne and Louise.

Hazel now lives at Bellville, Ontario, married to Ivan May. They have four children.

I came back in the late thirties to the farm the family farmed in the Valley. Granddad was with me for two summers. Then I was in the R.C.A.F. during the Second World War. When I came home, I married Evelyn McRoberts of Irma. We had three daughters, Marjorie who lives at Sylvan Lake, Judy who lives at Camrose and Terri, who taught school in Irma, was well known and liked by all. She died in a tragic car accident while teaching there in 1978.

Dad passed away in 1961 while at the Edmonton bull sale in March. He had served as a school trustee and also as a councillor. He also was Superintendent of the Sunday School at Batt and played the organ when needed in church.

Leslie Moore married Mable Edmonds on March 23rd, 1921 and moved to Batt Valley. They bought a farm three quarters of a mile south of Batt school and a half mile east. They had two sons Keith and Donald. Keith died before reaching his first birthday and is buried in Jarrow cemetery. Don is now living in California with his wife Ethel. They have two children Keith and Barbara-Lynn.

Leslie served as a school trustee while living at Batt. In 1936 they moved away from Batt, going to Ottawa. Leslie passed away at Vancouver on June 30th, 1965. Mable, his widow, is the only one of that generation of the Moores and their wives still living. She lives at Hayward, California, near her son Don.



Mr. and Mrs. Earl Moore and dog, Rover.

MORGAN FAMILY

During the twenties and thirties a Morgan family lived in Jarrow in the house presently owned by Buster and Lil Lingley. For a time they operated a garage and later ran the Pool Hall. There were six children in the family and they attended school at Jarrow. Howard Morgan worked for Bill Boyd in his store for a time. He served in World War II.

The Morgan family moved to Marblemount, Washington in 1940.

MORSE, HAROLD

by Lily (Sanders) Morse

Harold Morse was born in Saskatchewan where his family were hoping to take up farming in the "West". They had come from Michigan when Canadian West was being much advertised. The homestead they found was mostly rocky hilltops, north of Moose Jaw. It proved to be quite unproductive and the family soon returned to Michigan.

Some years later in 1928 this Morse family once more followed the urge to "go West". In Edmonton, thinking of the Peace River country, they learned of an available farm at Irma. So they came to the Creamer place, in the Roseberry district.

In 1933, Harold was married to me (Lily Sanders). To make a home, with a small down payment, we bought a half section on Highway 14, near Crescent Hill School. Farm prices were very low, crop failures persisted, the well we needed was difficult to come by. In 1936, we "sold out" and with prospects of some work in the East, with a small son, Glen, we went to Michigan. Being Canadians we were not allowed to stay in the United States. We bought a car there and started for Ontario. At the border we learned that we couldn't take the car out of the United States. Rescued by some kind relatives we soon found a friendly little town in Mennonite country near Kitchener. This was Wellesley. We bought a small farm, we sold milk, sold Watkins farm products and enjoyed a degree of success. Our daughter, Carolyn, was born in Woodstock and our sons Donald and Robert in Kitchener. We also spent a year in Kitchener where Harold did war-work in a machine shop run by Charlie Lattner, also formerly of Irma.

They say you can take a man out of the "West" but you can't take the "West" out of a man. In 1945 we returned to Irma, by car when tires and gas were rationed. We bought the George Fischer place in the Alma Mater district, sold it to buy the Elliott farm in the Education Point district, sold that to finally become owners of the east half of the Sanders farm, Section 27 on Highway 14 where Harvey McLeod now lives.

In 1956 we rented our land to buy a small store in Flaxcombe, Saskatchewan. We operated this for three years but keeping store proved not to be a preferred occupation. So we returned to buy some more land adjoining what we already had at Irma. By now the youngsters were all three attending the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

In 1960, Carolyn married Richard Tullson of Dewberry. They live in Calgary where Richard works for United Grain Growers. They have one son, Wayne, and two daughters, Wendy and Virginia. Donald graduated as a Civil Engineer, married Elvie Ringstrom of Beaverlodge and lives in Edmonton, with one son, Brian, and one daughter, Nancy. Robert graduated as a geologist, then went East to school in New York, and Queens University in Kingston where he graduated with a Ph.D. in geology. He married Linda Tribble from Louisiana and they live in Toronto with two sons, Peter and Jason. We noted, reading a clipping from a 1956 Journal that Elvie Ringstrom and Robert Morse had each won Governor-General medals for Grade IX in the same year, 1956.

In the fall of the year 1969, we rented our land, and sold a small acreage which included the farm buildings. Harold resigned from the school board, bought a home in Wainwright and prepared to live a more leisurely life. This did not last long, within three short years, Harold passed away. Not having raised a farmer, I am now a city dweller in Sherwood Park but still wishing for the weather man to do right by my former farm neighbours.



Harold and Lily Morse, Carl and Neva Morse, and Gerald and Gene Allen at Battle River Park.

W.H. (HERBIE) MORSE

by Roger Morse

My family migrated to Irma in 1928 from Michigan and settled on the N.W. 10-46-8-W4th. Roseberry School is on the same section so that is where we kids went to school.

Helen Deeton of Edmonton was our first teacher. She was nineteen years old, one hundred and twenty miles away from home, and drove a horse and buggy to school. Now wait a minute. I didn't say she drove a horse and buggy from Edmonton. She boarded at Oldhams, two and one half miles from school. I was in the seventh

grade. She was certainly a fine teacher.

We arrived there too late for a crop except a few acres of oats and a potato patch. We got a killing frost on August 22nd. The oats weighed ten pounds or less to the bushel and our large potatoes were about the size of golf balls.

In 1929 there was a total drought. Wheat on summerfallow yielded an average of five bushels per acre. In 1930 the price went to about thirty cents following the 1929 stock market crash. So we all worked for the sheer joy of it.

My older brother Harold, worked three summers for Andrew Smart and then in the fall of 1930 he went to British Columbia until harvest time of 1931. My mother died in August of the same year.

At that time there was little recreation other than dances and card parties. I was always quite self-conscious and backward but other boys of my age had started to dance, so there was nothing left for me to do but try it. I will never forget my first lesson, I made two mistakes. First I chose an evening when the crowd was very small so I wouldn't be stepping on too many toes. But I didn't take into consideration the presence of my black-hearted older brother Harold, and I underestimated the vile in his black-hearted soul. I asked Margaret Walker, who was a little older, quite tolerant and a good dancer. We were no sooner on the floor when my aforementioned brother spied us and started pointing and haw-hawing and immediately all the rest were haw-hawing. That was too much for Roger. I left Margaret in the middle of the floor and headed for the basement stairs. I think I ended up in the far corner of the coal bin and stayed there until daylight. That was at Crescent Hill school.

That terminated my dancing career until the following winter when brother Harold was on the other side of the mountains and couldn't even get me on his radar screen. I chose an evening when the school, Crescent Hill, was so packed they couldn't tell who was walking on their feet, and chose Margaret's older sister, Jean, who was much older than me and sort of a motherly type. She and some other longsuffering souls, including Edith Fitzpatrick, who later married Edwin Sanders, taught me to dance. When Harold came back, I could outshine him on the dance floor.

I returned to Michigan late in September, 1936. I rode a cattle train to Toronto and a bus to Detroit. Harold and Lily (Sanders) followed soon after but he being Canadian born and with a Canadian wife and child, couldn't enter the United States without awaiting the quota, so they settled in Ontario until about the end of World War II. Dad and my brothers Lowell, Dalton, and Wade returned in 1937.

**Thank God for dirty dishes,
They have a tale to tell,
While other folks go hungry,
We're eating very well.
With Home and Health and Happiness
We shouldn't want to fuss,
For by this stack of evidence,
God's very good to us!**



Morse family. Back Row: Milo, Carl, Herb (father), Oren, Harold. Front Row: Roger, Gene, Dalton, Mabel (mother), Theta and Lowell (Inset, Wade).

ROBERT MOULDER FAMILY

by Doris (Bell) Moulder

I grew up on my parents' farm south of Irma and attended Silver Lane school. At that time two and one-half miles was a long way to school so we had to be on the way very early. Summer wasn't too bad as we went by horse and buggy, bike or walked. The winters were harder and I remember one cold day we were all bundled up, sitting on a bed of straw and a tarp over the sleigh box, and my brother Irving thought the horses would make out all right as he was getting pretty cold, so he crawled under to warm up. Everything was fine till they made a wrong turn and over we went, kids, lunch pails and watercan tumbling out. Of course the horses stopped and the boys righted the box. We climbed in and continued on. Those days were tough but bring so many memories.

I later moved to Hardisty with my parents and worked at the hotel and dress shop.

Robert grew up on his parents' farm in the Hazelwood district and attended Hazelwood and Hardisty schools. He joined the R.C.A.F. on August 18th, 1941 and received his training at Edmonton and Bellville, Ontario, and was later stationed at Pat Bay, Bella Bella, Calgary and on to England for eleven months. It was quite an honor returning home on the Queen Elizabeth as Winston Churchill was also aboard. Robert was discharged in Winnipeg in February, 1946, returning home to the farm.

Robert and I were married on November 17th, 1953 and live in the Hazelwood district. We built our home in 1955 with the help of relatives and neighbors. We tore down old buildings and traded some grain for some lumber from Rocky Mountain House. We moved into our new home on January 1st, 1956 with wood cookstove, oil heater, bare floors, no phone and outdoor plumbing, but we didn't mind.

We have one son, Eugene, four daughters, Debra, Patricia, Gail and Denise. They have attended Hardisty and Sedgewick Central High schools.

Everyday Madonna

When Father carved
Thanksgiving's bird
And asked us each what
we preferred,
As sure as summer fol-
lows spring
Came mother's "Please,
I'll take the wing."

She never asked for leg or
breast,
We *thought* she liked the
wing the best.
I was a man before I
knew
Why mothers do the
things they do.

Eugene took a business management course at N.A.I.T. and is presently employed at Sears in Kingsway, Edmonton. He married Marilyn Barsey in 1979 and they have one daughter, Rachel Patricia.

Debra took a secretarial course at N.A.I.T. and has been a legal secretary for seven years. She married Gerry Larocque in 1981 and he works for the C.N. in Edmonton.

Patricia took a design arts course at Grant Mac Ewan and married Bernie Larocque (Gerry's twin brother) in 1981, who is a junior draftsman. They have two sons, Shawn and Christopher. They also live in Edmonton.

Gail graduated from Central High in 1983 and is looking forward to a career in Early Childhood Training.

Denise, our youngest daughter, is twelve years old and in the seventh grade at Hardisty school.

We are very proud of our family and enjoy many happy times with them.



Doris and Robert Moulder's 25th Anniversary in 1978. Patti, Eugene, Mom Bell, Dad Bell, Gail, Robert, Doris, Debra. Denise is in front.

MURPHY FAMILY

by Mazel (Murphy) Frickelton

Mazel Cora Murphy was born in 1903 in East Templeton, Quebec and moved west in 1911 to the Saltaux district with her mother and three sisters, Laura, Kate and Tina after her father had been killed in a logging accident. In 1915 they moved to the Zoldovara district, northwest of the present Albert school, where they farmed with their brother, Branch Murphy.

Kate Murphy married Jack Blakely who farmed south of Vermilion, later moving to a dairy farm in Courtenay, B.C.

Tina Murphy married Jack's brother, Art Blakely, who farmed in the Strawberry Plains district south of Irma, for a number of years, then retired to Victoria, B.C.

Laura Murphy, eldest of the family, married a Mr. Scharf and resided in the United States.

In 1918 Mrs. Murphy married Ken (Mac) McLeod and moved into Irma where Mac was the owner-operator of the local blacksmith shop for a number of years, retiring on his seventieth birthday.

Branch Murphy sold his farm and moved to Campbell River, B.C., where he farmed until retiring to an acreage in Courtenay.

Mazel completed her high school in Irma, attended Camrose Normal School, then taught one year at Wilabee, a district north of Wainwright. In July of 1928 Mazel married Walter Frickelton. The Frickelton story will be found elsewhere.

MRS. ETHEL MURPHY

written by Laurie Anne Erickson

Mrs. Murphy came to Irma in 1946 and took over the Coffee Shop formerly owned by Jerry and Maude Hurst. Being that she came from the Emerald Isle it was soon named Shamrock Coffee Shoppe. Her daughter, Ethel arrived in 1947 to help out. Business boomed through those years as Imperial Oil crews were in Irma, as well as the new school and hotel were being built. Keifer shows every Friday night made a packed house. In August, 1949 Ethel married Ross McFarland Jr.

Disaster struck on January 2, 1950 when fire destroyed the Coffee Shoppe. Mrs. Murphy returned to her home in Wembley. In later years she married Mr. J.K. Campbell and they now reside in the Hythe Nursing Home.

When reminiscing old times, a familiar remark is heard, "Remember those home-cooked meals and the apple pie at Ma Murphy's!"

ASHLEY MURRAY FAMILY

by Barbara (Murray) Fuder

Ashley Johnson Murray was born in 1896 in Summerside, Prince Edward Island. At the age of 30 he ventured west to Winnipeg, where he met Marion McLennan who had been born at Basswood, Manitoba in 1906. Marion and her family had since moved to Sherborne Ave. in Winnipeg. On July 5th 1930 they were married. They resided in Winnipeg and surrounding

areas until 1949 when they came further west to the Lloydminster district where Marion taught for four years. In 1951 Marion was hired by the Wainwright School Division to teach in Irma, where she taught until she retired in June of 1971. During this time Ashley farmed some land in the Lougheed area. I was in grade six at the time, Mrs. Louisa Prosser was my first teacher in Irma. Mom and I lived in the back end of the house now owned by Pomeroy's. On the weekends we would return to the farm and spend the time with Dad. We were able to purchase the house that Earl and Urma Fuder lived in, in 1951. In 1970 Marion became ill with a heart condition which bothered her until her death in August of 1972. Ashley had retired from farming in 1967. Even though he wasn't actively engaged in farming he enjoyed coming out to our farm helping in any way he could. Besides farming, he was an active member of his church, the Christian and Missionary Alliance. He also enjoyed attending the New Horizons Club meetings and gatherings. In January of 1981 Ashley became ill with diabetes and a kidney disorder. He was advised to make his home in the Extendicare Home in Viking, and in June of 1981 he passed away in the hospital.



Mr. and Mrs. Ashley Murray.



Ashley Murray

ED MURRAY FAMILY

by John Murray

Ed Murray was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland, July 31, 1895 and immigrated to Canada in 1926 to a farm at Loughheed, until 1928.

In 1927, Mr. and Mrs. John Murray (Ed's parents) arrived in Canada. Mr. Murray, upon his return to Ireland on a business trip, was killed in a street car accident.

Ed and Mrs. Murray moved to the Armitage farm at Kinsella, where he was employed by Wm. Armitage in 1929.

In the same year Peggie Bain, born December 25, 1898, Glasgow, came from Scotland to marry Ed.

In the spring of 1930, the family went to Ontario and lived at Aylmer until 1934, after which they returned to the Armitage farm. While at Aylmer, John was born, December 2, 1930. Margaret was born October 19, 1938.

The family rented the Boyd Farm, 3 miles north of Kinsella and farmed there two years (1942-1944). The Murrays moved back to Armitages and worked for Bert from 1945-1947. In the spring of 1947 the Roy Granger farm was purchased.

Mrs. Murray Sr., passed away September 28, 1948. Ed passed away November 29, 1978.

After leaving school, Margaret trained for a Nursing Aide in Calgary and now lives at Bittern Lake, Mrs. Art Lomas.

John operates the family farm. John started school at Badger School, attended Kinsella, then finished his education at Batt. Margaret started school at Batt and finished at Kinsella.



John, Ed, Peggy Murray and daughter, Margaret Lomas.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN MURRAY

by Olive Jones

John attended school in Irma until finishing Grade ten. He then started work with his father Stan, apprenticing as a Motor Mechanic. The first three sessions he took were in Calgary Tech School. He finished his fourth year in NAIT, the first year it opened in Edmonton.

In June, 1965, he married Norma Carlson from Sedgewick. She was at this time employed by Imperial Oil in Edmonton in their office as a secretary. To this union three children were born; Dean - May 6th, 1966; Christine - August 26th, 1967 and Susan - April 16th, 1973.

John continued on in the garage until his father's death, when he and his mother decided to close the garage and John sought work elsewhere. He worked in Wainwright for Beaver Lumber for a while and also, assisted by Norma, managed the Lazy T. Motel for a time. In the summer of 1973 the family returned to Irma where John went back to his mechanics, working for Keith Coffin. He was not to have this for long it seemed, as early in the fall he was stricken with cancer of the spine. He was in a wheelchair for over a year, making frequent trips to Edmonton for treatment, but to no avail. He passed away January, 1975, six months short of his thirty-second birthday.

Norma remained in Irma for a few months but finally moved, with her children, to Edmonton, where she got employment. She makes frequent trips to Irma to visit her mother-in-law and also other relatives and friends in the area.

MR. AND MRS. STAN MURRAY

by Olive Jones

Stan and Olive moved to Irma on May 24th, 1953. Stan was employed by the M.D. of Wainwright and most of his work brought him to Divisions 6 and 7, hence the move to Irma. They were accompanied in their move by their only child John, then a boy of ten years.

Stan continued with the M.D. until the fall of 1958 when he gave up the grader work and got employment at Central Sales Garage, then under the management of Wilf Symington.

While working here he obtained his motor mechanics license. When Mr. Symington sold out, Stan stayed on for a while with Mr. Erling Larson before going into business of his own in 1960 or 1961. He had the Cockshutt Farm Machinery Agency for a number of years. When his health became a problem in early 1967, he gave up the Agency.

Soon after their move to Irma, Olive got a part-time job as a meat wrapper at Larry's Food Market. After Stan got the machine agency she gave this up and worked full-time at the garage. She took a short course in Edmonton as parts man and became quite efficient at keeping the parts in good supply.

In October, 1967, Stan became quite ill with bleeding stomach ulcers, from which he never really recovered. He passed away suddenly in Viking Hospital of a heart attack in January, 1968.

Olive continued on in Irma for a time accompanied by son John, looking after C.N. freight and driving bus for Keith Coffin. In December of 1968 Olive decided farming was a better life when she married a popular bachelor, Albert Jones, from north of Irma. That story will appear elsewhere.

WALLACE E. MYERS

by Hazel Myers

In the spring of 1905 Wallace Myers came from Prince Edward Island to where Elnora, Alberta, now stands, or close to the place, and took a homestead. He married Mary Ella Ward who also came west from Vermont, U.S.A. To this union a son Wilbert and a daughter Ruby were born. In 1910 he moved to Ashmont, Alberta, and took up a South African scrip.

In 1918 he moved to Irma, Alberta, where he bought land in the Ross district. Wilbert and Ruby remained at Ashmont where they attended school. In 1919 they also came to Irma. Wilbert stayed at Bert Clelland's and went to Education Point school. He also stayed at Alf Larson's and attended Ross school. He worked for other neighbors also. At age fifteen he came home to live and work with his Dad. Ruby stayed at McPherson's and attended Ross school. She later married Lou Hardy and had two children, a boy Edward, and a girl Mary. Lou died and Ruby married Ken Matheson. To this union a girl was born, Irene. In 1945 Ruby moved to Edmonton where she still lives.

In 1949 Wilbert and Ruby found out they had a half brother in Louisiana, U.S.A. He passed away in 1976 with cancer. Wallace Myers passed away in 1937 at home in Irma.

In March of 1939 Wilbert married Hazel Casper of Wainwright. To this union two boys were born, Wallace and Garry. In December of 1943 they adopted a baby girl Beverly Jeanne.

In 1944 they bought six quarters of land and rented four more from Joe Mac Holt, which included the George Smith Ranch. In 1946 lightning struck their home and burned it to the ground. Unfortunately they carried no insurance. They farmed and ranched until 1953 when they sold all their land back to Joe Mac Holt and they moved to Viking, where they bought six school buses from Don Symington and they operated them until 1966, when their son Wallace and his wife Doreen took them over.

Wilbert bought a new 1967 tandem gravel truck and has trucked ever since.

Wallace and Doreen had a girl and a boy, Shauna Lee and Dean. They live in Edmonton.

Garry and his wife Joyce live at Lamont, and they have two boys, Darrell and Ronnie.

Beverly is widowed and has a boy, Bobby. She lives in Edmonton. Wilbert and Hazel are now pensioners but they keep busy and keep well.



Wallace and Wilbert Meyers. Mr. Meyers was road foreman for many years.



Wilbert Meyers with his horse.



Hazel and Wilbert Meyers with Wallace and Garry.

VICTOR AND CATHERINE NASH

by Leela Ramsay

Victor Nash and his son Fenton, came from Chataqua, New York, in 1908, and filed on a homestead three miles north and two miles west of Irma. Victor's mother, his wife, and two small children, Ena and Lawrence, arrived in Irma in 1910.

Victor was a carpenter by trade and planned to have a home built before having his family come from New York, but a prairie fire swept through the countryside burning the lumber he had bought. They had to live in a tent until new lumber was purchased and a house was built.

They lived the life as other pioneers did, breaking the sod, raising grain and building a herd of cattle. Vera, Harriette, Leela and William were born at Irma. Catherine Nash had been trained to be an elocutionist. She spent many evenings entertaining her family and friends by reciting poems.

Victor was a musician. He had brought his piano from the States. Many neighbors gathered in our home on Sundays and evenings to hear him play. He composed several songs. The Old-Timers will remember listening to his song "The City of Gold".

The Old-Timers will also remember an auction sale - there was an old piano to sell. The auctioneer was rhythmically chanting his words to get a bid - no one wanted the old piano. Victor came forth and played. The bidding started and the piano sold.

Fenton served as a soldier in the First World War. After returning he farmed for many years northwest of Irma.

Ena married Reuben Berreth. They had three children - Audrey, Grant and Garry. They farmed for a few years and then moved to Turner Valley. Reuben worked for Royalite Oil Co. for many years and is now retired in Red Deer.

Lawrence married Elsie Allen. They had two girls - Glenis and Evelyn. They farmed west of Irma and then moved to Clyde. There he raised grain and Hereford

cattle. He retired in St. Albert.

Vera went to High School in Irma. She fell from a horse and had a very bad injury.

Harriette married Ace Cleveland. They had two children, Lanalee and Glen. Ace served in the Air Force during the Second World War. Harriette taught school for many years in Elnora and Delburne. She married Ernest Bonham in 1971. She is now retired in Mannville.

Leela married Gordon Ramsay. They had one son - Billy. Gordon served as a soldier in the Second World War. After he returned they farmed fifteen miles north of Irma. Their land is now in the centre of the oil patch.

William went to North Battleford, Saskatchewan. Sunday would find him playing his guitar and singing in church. He married Virginia Heneg. They had six children - Robin, Nancy, Wilson, Caroline, Richard and JoAnne. He worked as a welder and had his own shop in North Battleford.

THE CITY OF GOLD

*There's a city they say that is built of pure gold,
Where death never comes or you never grow old.
Where sin never enters nor naught that is spoiled,
In that beautiful city of gold.
For Jesus is King of that Heavenly land
And that beautiful city of gold.*

*Now all that enters that Heavenly land must do God's
commands
And be rich in His grace
Must love one another, as Jesus loves us,
In that beautiful city of gold.
For Jesus is King of that Heavenly land
And that beautiful city of gold.*



Jim Kennedy and Fenton Nash.

*It's on sunny days that you want to repair your umbrella;
it's too late when it starts to rain.*



Lawrence and Elsie Nash.

SIDNEY MONTAQUE NEW

Sidney Montaque New better known as Monte was born in South Wales in 1891. He came to Canada with his parents Mr. and Mrs. William New in 1907 and settled on the homestead of S.W. 2-47-8-W4th with his parents, and farmed with his father.

Monte married Laura Haun in the 1920's and she passed away in 1930 followed by their daughter in 1931.

In 1932 Monte married Joan Dunbar (known to all as Dolly). She was a very busy lady helping others and growing beautiful gardens.

In 1936-37 Dorothy Dalton was welcomed into their home after the death of her father Bill Dalton, (she is Monte's niece).

They farmed in the Avonglen District until 1944 when they moved to Vancouver B.C.

Monte and Dolly passed away in Vancouver. Monte in January 1955 and Dolly January 7, 1984 and they were laid to rest in Irma Cemetery.

Monte and Dolly loved gardening and they always had time for family and friends.



Mr. and Mrs. Mont New.

MR. WILLIAM NEW

Mr. New was born in Dorset, England in 1865 and spent most of his early years in Wales.

In 1907 Mr. and Mrs. New and family came to Edmonton, Alberta and settled on a homestead of S.E. 2-47-8-W4th, in 1908 at Irma.

Mrs. New passed away in 1912 leaving a family and fond memories, she was a well respected lady.

Mr. New was on the Avonglen School Board after it was built in 1920.

More hardship came to this family in 1934 when his daughter Alice Dalton passed on leaving a wee daughter, Dorothy.

He and his son Monte farmed in the district until 1944 when he, his son, wife and niece Dorothy moved to Vancouver.

They were progressive farmers, excellent friends and good neighbors.

Mr. New was brought back to Irma in 1950 where he was laid to rest in the Irma Cemetery.

JOHN NEWTON

John was born in the first Red Cross Outpost Hospital in Western Canada at Paddockwood, Saskatchewan just north of Prince Albert on March 19, 1931, the third son of Tom and Ivy Newton. He worked at various jobs in his teens travelling across Canada, usually on farms and lumber camps. In the fall of 1951 he was hired by Robert Dempsey of Irma where he worked for four years before starting out farming on his own on rented land north of Irma, Sec. 29-46-9-4, owned by Sam and Ralph Congdon.

On May 1, 1958 he married Mary Dootson and to this union four children were born. William, born Feb. 19, 1959, attended Lakeland College taking Agriculture before marrying Linda Willans, youngest daughter of Art Willans, a computer technician on Nov. 15th, 1980. They have a small son Justin, July 12, 1981 and daughter Jessica Lynn born February 1984. Bill continues to work for Northwestern Utilities at Irma.

On March 26, 1960 John moved his family just east of Irma on S.W. 29-45-8-4 the farm formerly owned by Gordon Elliott.

Anita, born May 14, 1960, attended N.A.I.T. after graduation taking a Secretarial Arts course. She is employed by Public Works of Alberta, Secretary to the Assistant Deputy Minister of that Department. Anita married Stephen Sheehan of Duro, Ontario on Nov. 27, 1982, and they both continue to work in the same Dept., living in South Edmonton.

Randy was born December 29, 1961, attending school in Irma like the rest. He has a real love of music, playing bass guitar for a local band. On July 3, 1982, he married Annette Pyle, eldest daughter of Faye and Gordon Pyle. They live on the farm where he works with his Dad. On Sept. 23, 1983, they had a son Jordan.

July 2, 1964, Karen was born. She completed a very successful school term by being Valedictorian of her class. She is presently in her second year of Rehabilitation Medicine taking Physiotherapy at University of Alberta.



Summer of 1965, Bill, Anita, Randy and Karen Newton.

The family as a whole has enjoyed participating in the local 4 - H Beef Club, taking part in all the related activities of Public Speaking, trips across Canada and other social events. Mary received her ten year Leadership certificate before moving on to other things. The family Simmental cowherd continues to produce many excellent calves going into the local clubs.

John and the boys enjoyed a long association with Minor hockey with John having coached for over ten years. The boys continue to play recreation hockey. Highlight of the hockey years was coaching the Bantam C team to the Provincial Championship.

Mary and John have taken an active interest in the Agricultural Society. Mary served as Secretary for several years and John was retiring President this year. John recently joined the Masonic Lodge; is a director of the Range Patrol Association; Director for the Lloydminster Simmental Association and has been very involved with running the Irma Arena.

Mary is at present Region Seven Women of Unifarm Director working for the Women's arm of the farm organization Unifarm.

On May 1, 1983, Mary and John celebrated their twenty-fifth Anniversary with their family.



Edith Russel, Hazel Nicoll, Bert, Lydia and Don Nicoll.

About 1927 we moved back to Irma. My father bought a farm four miles north of Irma in the Ross School district. My sister and I went to Ross school and later to high school in Irma. Our neighbors at that time were the Archibalds, Petersons, Watsons, Fischers, Selsteds. Two teachers at Ross School I remember were Alma Miles and Mary Nichols. Mary later on married Nelwin Peterson. Our high school teacher was Isaac Reed.

In 1936 we moved to Perryvale, Alberta. In 1940 I married Louise Waffle and Hazel married Wilfred Lehto. They have two children, Gordon and Myrna. We have two children, Donald and Barbara. Wilfred and Hazel now live at Prince George, B.C.

Louise and I are retired and live in Riondel, B.C.

ERLING AND DELLA NILSON FAMILY

by Della Nilson

Erling and Della continued to farm the land owned by his parents and to this marriage four children were born. The eldest, Darryl, born in 1959, completed his schooling in Irma and has been employed with Pacific Western Airlines for the past three and one-half years. Darryl currently resides in Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Bradley, born in 1961 with a head of curly hair and always a mischievous gleam which continues today, was attending grade nine in Irma school when tragedy struck on a cold December evening in 1976. Bradley became entangled in the power take-off of the tractor while rolling grain. Brad's tenacity and determination, which he carries through in daily life, brought him through the accident with flying colors. He was united in marriage to Barbara Congdon, daughter of the late Ralph Congdon and Thelma of Wainwright, in July of 1982. A daughter, Jana Leah, was born in November of 1983. They continue to live in the Irma district on the Hollinger farm and Bradley works for Pasztor Farms.

Dale, the youngest boy, was born in 1963 and after completing grade twelve at Irma, is employed at Lakeland Insulation of Irma.

Finally in 1966 a daughter, Vicky Ann, was born. She is taking grade twelve at the Irma school and works part-time at the Irma Hotel Restaurant.

During the years of farming many young people of the



Steve Sheehan, Karen, John, Mary, Bill, Randy, Anita Sheehan and Amanda, Linda and Jessica, Annette, Jordon and Justin.

BERT NICOLL

by Bert Nicoll

My first introduction to Irma came when I moved to the district with my mother and dad, Lydia and Don Nicoll, about 1919 or 1920. My dad rented the Johnson place, about nine miles north and east of Irma. Our neighbors were the McLeans, Pattersons, Elliotts and John McNaughton. My mother's sister, Edith Russel, married Jim Elliott. My sister Hazel was born during our stay on the Johnson place. Later that same year we moved to Dunster, B.C. so ends the first chapter of our Irma story.



July 1983. Vicky, Darryl, Della, Dale, Erling, Bradley and Barbara at Della and Erlings 25th Wedding Anniversary.

community were employed by Erling and Della. Many memories of incidences such as people being thrown in the water trough, clothes and all, are recalled at times of reminiscing. Erling and Della have always been keen supporters of community activities particularly having the youngsters active in many fields of sports. Erling served on the Unifarm board and as vice-president for some very rewarding and memorable years.

Erling and Della now rent the farmland and Erling spends most of his time carpentering unless someone needs wiring, plumbing or "whatever" done. Della is employed at the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator as secretary, a job which first came available in September of 1979.

SIVERT AND LINA NILSON

by Della Nilson

Sivert spent seven years in the States and returned to Norway where he married Lina Skarset in 1928. Their intention was to return to North Dakota, where his relatives were, but on arriving in Montreal by ship imagine their dilemma when they realized their papers were not in order so they could not continue on. They telegraphed to Alberta to a cousin of Sivert's, Nikalai Fluevog, Norman's father, asking if they would sign for them to come west - hence the arrival in Irma.

Shortly after Sivert and Lina arrived, Sivert's brother, Peder, also immigrated to the Irma district. They arrived in Canada as Fluevog's, their surname in Norway, but with two S. Fluevogs in the community, Sivert and Peder decided to change their name. They used their father's first name of Nils, and the Scandinavian tradition, being sons of Nils became the Nilsons.

They lived with the Nikalai Fluevog family until fall when they moved to Jim McDonald's, Mervin and

Paralee MacKay's present home. In the spring a daughter, Lilly was born. It is told that on that beautiful March day Sivert was in such a big rush getting Mrs. Nick Fluevog to assist in the delivery that he ran over Charlie Jackman's dog.

Sivert and Lina also lived and worked at Jack Russel's farm, now owned by Gordon Hollinger, the Otto Reinaas farm in the Lougheed area, before moving to the John Erickson place in the Coal Springs district where they rented the farm from John's widow, Hattie, who later married Jack Halverson.

In 1934 they moved to the Strawberry Plains district where they had bought two quarters of land. There were no buildings so they built a chicken house first and they moved into that while the house was being built.

A son, Erling, was born in 1936 and Ludvig Satre's Model T had to make that "quick trip" to Wainwright. Sivert's first car was bought in 1938 and what an exciting day that was as all the travelling up till then had been by horse and buggy in the summer, and horse and cutter or sleigh in the winter. Well remembered are the trips to Jarrow and Irma with eggs and cream. The first big venture was to Edmonton in 1939 to see the King and Queen.

They worked hard and built up a beautiful farmstead and Mother did enjoy her garden and flowers. Well can be remembered the many pails of water carried by hand onto the evergreens that now enhance the driveway and farmstead.

Sivert had one of the numerous travelling thresh rigs which travelled about the community during harvest. Many fond and lasting memories can be remembered of the hard work, long hours and joviality and friendships that were made during these times. Many instances of hats and caps being thrown in the blower and winding up high in the strawpile can be remembered. Farmhands



Sivert and Lina Nilson, Erling and Lilly in 1947.

from Eastern Canada and newcomers from Norway will always remember the hospitality shown them by Sivert and Lina.

In 1951 Lilly married Ralph Erickson and they live on the Elmer Erickson homestead in the former Coal Springs community.

Sivert passed away in 1956 at the age of 54 from the same dreaded disease that had taken one of the dearest friends of the family, Mrs. Ludvig Satre. Sivert served on the board of the Irma Co-op, was instrumental in the forming of the Gratton Rural Electric Association, and all worthwhile endeavors within his community which served to promote his philosophy that it doesn't matter what I possess provided I have a community and neighbors. He was serving as a councillor for the M.D. of Wainwright at his passing. Erling and his mother continued the family farm until 1958 when Erling and Della Symington were married and took over the family farm.

Lina purchased the Vic Hutchinson house in Irma in 1958 and resided there until 1960 when she sold her house to Foster Barton. Lina moved to Camrose and was employed at the Bethany Sunset Home and Hospital. She enjoyed her home and work there and passed away suddenly in 1967, doing what she enjoyed most, her gardening.

Sivert and Lina were faithful members of the Sharon Lutheran Church and Sivert served in many capacities within his church, notably the Bethany Home and Hospital and Camrose Lutheran College, of which he was a very strong supporter.

H.C. (OLE) NISSEN FAMILY

Helge Christian Nissen was born in 1903 in Paarup, Denmark. His parents died when he was twelve and he went to live with a brother until he became an adult. At the age of twenty, he emigrated to Canada and worked at various jobs, including threshing in Alberta. As most of the threshing crew could not pronounce his first name, they began to call him Ole the Swede. His vehement objections only made the name more popular and so it "stuck". He was known as "Ole" the rest of his life. His music also underwent a change on the threshing rig. Trained as a classical violinist, he learned to "fiddle" the old-time tunes and dances for the crew and continued to play for dances most of his life.

In the early years of the depression, he married Emily Peterson of Standard, Alberta, and they homesteaded in the Caroline area. Two children, Norman and Joan, were born while they lived on the farm. In 1942 he went to work for the Alberta Wheat Pool and they moved to McLaughlin, where he bought grain for seven years. He moved the family to Irma in December, 1949 where he worked for the Pool until his retirement in 1968. Emily passed away in 1956 after a long illness and Ole was alone for two years.

In 1958 he married Audrey Jones, and two children, Eric and Fay were born to this union. Ole also sold Co-operative Insurance from the 1950's until his death, and was bookkeeper at the Irma Co-op for several years. He was always interested in young people and was involved



Fay, Ole, Audrey and Eric Nissen.

in 4H groups for many years. Music played a large part in his life.

As an active member of the Masons, Elks, O.E.S. and Chamber of Commerce, he kept busy, happy and healthy until the age of seventy-six. An avid fisherman and lover of nature, he passed away at one of his favorite places of a heart attack. He left his family a heritage of happy memories of a kind and honest gentleman.

Norman lives in Edmonton, working as a plumber and pipefitter. Joan and her husband Art Walter and family of three boys and a girl, reside in Winnipeg. Eric married Debra Anderson of Edgerton and they live in Irma with their son. Fay is presently attending the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

JOHN NOLAN

by Doris Fenton

Old John was in his seventies when he came to Irma to feed hogs for Halvorsens. At various times he worked for Hubmans, Robertsons, Inkins, Eldon and Stuart Fenton. When he would become annoyed with one family he would move to another. He was very fond of children and when in town spent most of his money giving out treats. He enjoyed treats himself, often finishing a large bag of grapes at one sitting. At Fenton's he would ask Stuart to bring him a brick of ice cream. He'd cut it in half with his jackknife, reach for a spoon he kept in a crack in the bunkhouse wall and sit in bed with his fur cap on and eat the whole thing. The fur cap was a permanent fixture worn summer and winter. He said it kept the wax soft in his ears so he could hear. He was really very deaf. Once he wore the cap wrong side out for several weeks. He'd had an accident while gathering eggs in it. He always wore a tie.

Though seldom sick, Old John had his own remedies. He'd say, "That spoonful of kerosene fixed me just fine" or "Cook me two eggs and boil 'em till they're blue". At other times he'd just touch his tongue with the stopper off Dr. Bell's Livestock Remedy.

John had a huge appetite. The puffed wheat bag always sat near his place so he could finish off a meal with that. A white cat, deaf from birth and also fond of puffed wheat often sat near. If John forgot to share, the cat would tap him with a paw. He got along well with all animals. He would fasten range cows in the milk cow stantions all by himself. The team that always gave new drivers a bad time behaved perfectly with him.

John was thought to have come to Canada illegally, something about a murder being committed with a gun belonging to him. Some said he went by a false name. After he and Mrs. Gray (Doris Fenton's mother) discovered they had been born about twenty miles apart in Tennessee, they had long discussions, sometimes quite heated, about long past political controversies and historical events.

John had lived in many parts of North America but always declared Alberta was the finest place in the world. He spent his last years in the Senior Citizens lodge at Wainwright and died at ninety-three.

JIM AND ANNETTE O'DONOGHUE

Jim was born on June 10th, 1877 in Camdon parish at Chippawa, Lennington-Addington County, Ontario. He was from a family of ten children.

Jim was educated at the local school and later graduated from Kingston College. He was employed by Rathburn County until he came west to Wetaskiwin, before the turn of the century. There he engaged in freighting. Sometimes he drove the stage from Wetaskiwin to Spring Lake before the railway was laid in that part of the country.

At one time he owned the livery stable in Daysland, also worked on the railroad and did freighting to Hardisty. He sold his original land to the Grand Trunk Railway for a right-of-way and took land in the Strawberry Plains district south of Irma. He was joined by his sister Annette in 1917.

Jim was a successful farmer, a good citizen having served on the School Board and the Battle River Municipal Council. He was a founder of Theresa's Catholic Church for which he worked untiringly. He had been hindered by ill health all his life. In 1955 he was awarded a fifty year plaque during the Province's jubilee.

Jim farmed until 1948 when he and Annette moved to Irma. They resided there for sixteen years before moving to the Battle River Lodge in Wainwright. Jim passed away February 26th, 1967 and was buried in the Irma cemetery.

After Jim's death, Annette's nieces from Ontario persuaded her to return to Ontario to live. She passed away in 1970 at the age of ninety-four years and is buried in Ontario.

ABEL OLDHAM

Abel Oldham lived near the Avonglen school site. The land is now owned by Fords. Abel married Elsie Williams after her husband Billy's death.

HOWARD OLDHAM

by Pearl Oldham

Howard was born at Mount Albert, Ontario in 1912 (he always said that he and the Titanic made news that year) and came west in 1916 with his parents and brother Seth.

Early years were not without interests. One spring he and a cousin decided that chicken would sure be nice for dinner-so they ran down the rooster and butchered it. When they proudly presented their offering at the door things took on a different light. Parents were none too pleased with losing what was to have been the daddy of the new crop of chickens. Punishment was suited to the crime, and two little boys were not among those who enjoyed chicken. That was probably the best way to teach the lesson as it really stuck.



Howard Oldham family in 1963 - Howard, Pearl, Ruth, Carol and Linda.

In order to get enough pupils to re-open Roseberry school, Howard started off at five and one half years. There was no big yellow bus then so the children got plenty of Physical Education and time for nature study on the long walks to and fro. Not much wonder the schools were closed during the coldest months.

Howard often talked about threshing days. He started young and was always a part of it until combines became the way of harvest.

Young people have always been the same when it comes to adventure. One time Fred Younker and Howard were going to go camping down by the river. They had a horse and buggy, and thought they had secured the horse but during the night it took off home. Still, in the morning the boys hiked off to the railway tressle and spent most of the day exploring before gathering up and

walking home. Next day they had to return for the buggy.

In winter the young fellows cleared off ice on the slough in our pasture and many the good hockey games that were enjoyed. People made most of their own entertainment and in winter a play was often the project, involving a lot of the community in one way or another.

Howard farmed all his life and enjoyed it. In 1947 he married me (Pearl Johnston from Saskatchewan) and we had three daughters, Carol, Ruth and Linda.

In 1951 people began to think about trying to get power into the district (a lot had thirty-two-volt systems, but one hundred ten would be a big improvement). Meetings were held and out of these directors were chosen. Howard was one of the original directors and was also secretary for many years. In fact the last thing he did the night he took a fatal heart attack was sign some letters I had gotten ready for him. Getting the power required many meetings and a lot of driving and planning. Much midnight oil was burned but it was surely worth it all.

Anyone who knew Howard realized he was a diabetic. We had a good life raising our family together. The girls each chose nursing as a career. I often think perhaps their Dad's close association with doctors, hospitals etc. may have had a lot to do with their choices. Howard got to meet his first granddaughter who arrived just two months before he passed away June 5, 1974.

Carol married Vernon Taylor March 4, 1972. After a year in Yellowknife N.W.T. they settled in Edmonton. Vern is a carpenter but during the present recession (80's) he is employed in other work which is available. They have four children, Jannelle, Christopher, Jeffery and Melissa. Carol works part time.

Ruth was married on July 8, 1972 to Fred Vivian of Dewberry. They live in St. Albert. Fred is employed in auto equipment business. They have two children Cheryl and Donald. Ruth works part time in the nursing home.

Linda went to Barrhead when she finished nurses training, so it was no surprise when she married Wayne Klufas Oct. 4 1974. Wayne is a barber with a shop in Barrhead. Linda enjoys her nursing very much and for the last few years has been nursing director at the nursing home there.

We have many happy memories of simple family activities together. Natural gas became an added convenience to rural living in 1975.

I continue to live on the farm, as I enjoy country life.

Editor's Note: Mrs. Oldham moved to St. Albert, Alberta, 1984.

MARGARET OLDHAM

by Margaret Oldham

I first saw the sun rise in Alberta on the 17th day of March, 1916 when we arrived in Mannville from Mount Albert, which is about forty miles north of Toronto. My husband, Ben Oldham, had been out here on a harvest excursion in the summer of 1914. We came on a "home seekers ticket" for which we paid thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents each, and we were allowed to bring one hundred and fifty pounds of luggage. Our cousin, John



Ben and Margaret Oldham's fiftieth anniversary, 1961.

Sawdon, met us in Mannville and brought us to Abel Oldham's, another cousin's home where we settled in for a few weeks. They were living in a shack about fourteen by twenty feet. They had three children and we had two boys, Howard and Seth, all under five years and four adults - no room to spare.

We attended church services which were held in the home of Grandpa Elliott who lived about two miles north of where Alma Mater school was built later.

We soon purchased the N.W. 22-46-8-W4th from Fred Challis who homesteaded it, and a few weeks later we bought the southwest quarter of the same section from Mr. Norman McDougal who had homesteaded it. One quarter had a shack ten by twelve feet built of one ply of shiplap and covered with tarpaper, having one door and one window about twenty-four inches square and placed so high I had to stand on tiptoe to see the ground outside. There was a hole under the house that served as a cellar, which we entered through a trap door and down a ladder. A few shelves with a curtain around served as a cupboard, while a larger shelf with a longer curtain was our wardrobe. The next quarter we bought had a shack twelve by eighteen feet with one door and three windows, so we had more room and more light. It was lined with one-half inch lumber.

We never used oxen but we did use a stable that was built for oxen and the door wasn't high enough to admit a horse with hames on so we dug out a few shovels of earth on each side of the door sill so the horse could get in and he was harnessed after he came out of the stable. We bought two horses and borrowed two more besides harness and implements for the first year. Our cousin loaned us a cow on the condition that we would raise her calf too. I churned enough butter to meet our need by shaking the cream in a two quart jar and enough extra to trade for what eggs we needed. We had no well with

water in so we dug a hole as big as a wash tub just out from the edge of a slough and the water seeped through into it and we dipped it out carefully and got fairly clear water. It was not very cold on warm summer days.

In early August of that summer we had frost and snow. There were sixty acres of oats on one quarter which we got a share of, but the other quarter had seventy-five acres under cultivation and it was summerfallow that year so we didn't suffer much loss from the frost.

Ben's younger brother, Clarence, had worked in partnership with us from the time we were married in 1911 till the fall of 1920. He stayed in Ontario on the rented farm we had there (his sister keeping house for him) while we came out here to size up the situation. We returned to Ontario in the fall of 1916, had a sale in the spring of 1917 and moved out here to stay, bringing two car loads of settlers' effects with us. There were plenty of coyotes around then and oh how they could howl! There were plenty of gophers too - quite friendly little fellows. One nice day when I had the door open a gopher came in to visit and explore the interior of the house. One cold winter day I saw the mercury drop to sixty-four degrees below fahrenheit with enough wind to run the windmill at noon. That was the coldest day I ever saw and I don't want to see another like it.

We enjoyed those pioneering days at that time. Hardships, yes, but we learned to face them by trusting God who has never failed us. Now as we look back we just thank God for his mercies and blessing down through our fifty-three years of married life and for the wonderful provision He has provided for Senior Citizens in the Battle River Lodge.

updated by E. Pearl Oldham

Little did Grandma Oldham know when she wrote the above just how soon ideas would become reality. Although Grandpa had been slipping, his sudden passing in March, 1964 was a surprise. Grandma very soon sold the house and moved into the Lodge in June of 1964 where she has been very happy since. She enjoyed sewing and quilting. She has quilted three hundred and twenty quilts, some, other people pieced the tops for her but she did a great many entirely on her own. She mended and altered for a lot of the residents. We are gradually getting her slowed down to doing smaller jobs. I would never try to do any more than persuade her to ease up as she is happy doing something.

On August 15th, 1983 Grandma was ninety-five and the family marked the happy occasion with dinner, followed by an afternoon open house where Grandma enjoyed the well wishes and visiting with a lot of her friends.

THE SETH OLDHAM FAMILY

Seth was born in Mt. Albert, Ontario, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Oldham. He came to Alberta with his parents and older brother Howard in 1916. They settled in the Roseberry district, northeast of Irma and this is where Seth attended school. He was always interested in mechanics, and in 1932 he worked in Harold



Grandma Oldham's ninetieth Birthday in August, 1978. Standing, Left to Right: Lois, Morris, Grandma, Allan, Eileen, Ken. Seated: Mildred and Seth Oldham.

McDougal's garage in Jarrow. After he left Jarrow he had a trucking business out of Fabyan and when the buffalo were killed off in the Wainwright Park, he had the contract to haul the buffalo meat from the abattoir to the railway cars in town.

In 1935 he married Mildred Johnson. To this union six children were born. Their eldest son Kenneth married Elaine Laycock and they live in Edmonton, they have two girls and one boy; Maurice married Enid Jones, they have one girl and one boy and they also live in Edmonton: Eileen married Lorne Cook, they have three boys and one girl and they live out of Victoria on Vancouver Island; Allan married Karen Lovig, they have one little girl and they live in Wainwright; Lois married Gary Novakowski, they have two boys and also live in Wainwright. Seth and Mildred's second daughter, Alice, passed away in Wainwright in 1966.

In 1937 Seth farmed in the Avonglen district. In 1939 he opened a store in Irma and later took over the Cockshutt Agency. After he left Irma he worked for Norval Miles in Edgerton. He enlisted in the army in 1944 and was stationed at Orillia, Ontario and Chilliwack, B.C. Upon getting his discharge, he farmed for a number of years in the Passchendale district where the children attended school. In 1959 the family moved to Wainwright, where Seth operated the John Deere Agency. He later sold out and worked for Donnie Haun on the farm for several years.

While they lived in Wainwright, both Seth and Mildred were active members of Grace United Church and the Elks and Royal Purple Lodges. In 1974 they had a sale and moved to Sidney on Vancouver Island, where they are now living and enjoying the milder winters.

CHARLES OLSEN FAMILY

Charles Viggo Olsen was born on September 30th, 1884, in Copenhagen, Denmark. As a young man he delivered bakery goods in his hometown. He immigrated to the U.S.A. in 1902, arriving in New Orleans by



Charlie Olsen family - Earl, Bob, Bessie holding Irene, Charlie.

freighter. Not being able to speak a word of English presented a great hardship. Charlie recalled living on bananas for weeks and said for years afterwards he could not stand the sight of a banana.

In 1912 he came to the Ponoka district where he farmed until 1914. Charlie married Nellie Hubbs and there were three children, Roy, Freida and Ruby born to this union.

In 1914 the Olsen family moved to the Irma district and homesteaded, the S.W. 30-46-9-W4th. This land had been homesteaded previously by Harry Botel who grew potatoes on it. Harry made a dugout home as well as a dugout root cellar. The potatoes all froze so Harry threw up the land and moved away. Charlie Olsen homesteaded it and lived in the dugout until a house was built.

The Olsens, as did all the early settlers, experienced some very hard times. In 1924 Nellie took the two girls Freida and Ruby and moved back to the States to live.

Later Mrs. Bessie Burr kept house for Charlie Olsen where she made a home for her two boys Bob and Earl. Charlie and Bessie later married and they had two children, Irene and Orville. The Burr and Olsen children attended the Ross school. In the winters they held skating parties on a slough close to the Olsen house. Everyone enjoyed these get togethers as well as Bessie Olsen's good cooking.

Charlie and Bessie were hard-working people. They



Ruby Anderson, Bob Burr, Freida Roberts and Orville Olsen, September, 1982.

milked cows as well as keeping a range herd which for years pastured the open land to the west. Mrs. Olsen recalls that during the dry years their cattle (and many of the neighbors) came to their well to drink. They raised chickens for eggs and meat as well as turkeys.

In 1961 the Olsens purchased a house in Irma from Arthur Knudson. Charlie passed away in 1964 and Bessie still makes her home there.

ORVILLE OLSEN FAMILY

Orville, the youngest child of Charlie and Bessie Olsen, was born at home on February 14th. He was born and raised in the house his dad homesteaded in which is still standing today on S.W. 30-46-9-W4th. He attended school at Ross about one and one-half miles away, either walking or riding horseback. After leaving school he remained at home to farm with his dad.

On October 27th, 1954 he married Lois Simmonds of Minburn, Alberta, and they made their home in a house purchased from Clarence Meakins which was moved into the same yard as his folks. In 1966 we built a new house and surely enjoyed the luxury of plumbing and the telephone.



Olsen family. Debra, Judy, Jerry, Sandra, Lois and Orville.

For many years we milked cows (by hand) and raised pigs, also had range cows, so always had lots of chores to do. In later years we bought a milking machine and milked the modern way. As time went on we purchased land of our own, buying the John Archibald land, Ted Stockton's and some from Len Adamson. It seemed we had the misfortune of many a hail storm which set us back a bit. In 1978 we sold the milk cows and went out of pigs so cut down the work a lot.

We raised a family of one son and three daughters, who attended school in Irma.

Judy attended N.A.I.T. and took Business Administration, then took university courses in accounting. She now is a registered Industrial Accountant and is employed in Edmonton where she lives.

Jerry attended N.A.I.T. and took Petroleum Technology. From there he was employed with Esso Resources and made his home at Calgary and also spent

six months in Florida. He married Lana Helm and they live in the Irma district. They have two sons, Jason and Wyatt.

Debbie attended Red Deer College in an Art Program. She worked at various jobs, then took psychiatric nursing at Ponoka and now is finishing her training at Alberta Hospital, Edmonton.

Sandra worked at Ponoka Hospital as a nurses aide, then at various places of employment. At present she is working at Kinsella, Alberta.

Since Orville's bout with cancer in December, 1982, he has had to quit farming on account of the dust and other things associated with farming. The farming is now capably handled by our son Jerry.

ROY OLSEN

Roy Olsen was born March 9th, 1911 in Petersburg, Illinois, U.S.A. In 1912 he came with his parents to Canada in a covered wagon to the Ponoka district, where his father farmed until 1914. At this time they moved to and homesteaded in the Ross district.

Their first home in this district was a dug-out. Later two sisters were born.

Roy grew up and in 1938 left for the West Coast, where he met his wife Grace Sowerby. They were married in 1940 in Vancouver, B.C. Two children were born, a boy David and a girl Lorraine.

In 1945 Roy brought his family to the Ross district and farmed the S.E. part of Section 24-46-10-W4th until 1957. Times were hard, so they moved back to the West Coast where Roy got steady employment. They retired to live in the beautiful Cariboo District at Forest Grove. Lorraine Jansen, their daughter, also lives in the Cariboo at Forest Grove with her three daughters. Their son David works for a Mining Company at Cassiar, B.C.

Roy's two sisters live in the United States. Frieda (Mrs. John Roberts) lives at Falls City, Oregon and Ruby (Mrs. Anderson) lives at Mills, Wyoming.

Roy Olsen passed away in September, 1982.



Grace, David and Lorraine Olsen, September, 1982.

O'NEILL, THOMAS ALEXANDER AND MARGARET ESTHER

by Iola (O'Neill) Overbo

Alex O'Neill was born to James and Elizabeth O'Neill on October 16th, 1889 in Sillery a suburb of Quebec City, Quebec. He had four brothers and four sisters.

After the death of his mother, Alex came to Alberta at a very young age. He worked for a time in Edmonton hauling gravel for the construction of the High Level Bridge and he also delivered coal with teams of horses on wagons and sleighs to various places in the city. He moved to Viking, Alberta where he worked for the Brissard outfit that was breaking land in the area.

Alex married Margaret, eldest daughter of Ole C. Erickson and his wife Theresa, of Sedgewick, Alberta. Margaret, better known as Maggie, was born October 19, 1891 in Brookings, South Dakota. She came to Alberta with her parents, brothers and sisters in 1902. They lived near Millet, Alberta until 1906 when they then went to Sedgewick and took a homestead a few miles south of the town.

Alex and Maggie went to Wilkey, Saskatchewan where Alex worked running a Rumley tractor breaking the prairie land. Alex had many humorous stories to tell of the little grey horse that they drove while at Wilkey. This



Alex and Tommy O'Neill in 1938.

horse preferred to have only men ride in the buggy that he pulled which resulted in some precarious situations.

After some time spent in Saskatchewan, Alex and Maggie returned to Sedgewick. They had two children, a daughter Margaret, and a son Tommy.

On the 30th day of March, 1916, Alex enlisted in the Two Hundred and Second Overseas Battalion -- Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force and accompanied this unit to England. He was returned to Canada and was discharged from the services at Calgary, Alberta on the 17th of August, 1918, being medically unfit for further service due to the partial loss of sight in his right eye.

After his discharge from the Army, Alex purchased the S.W. 4-45-10 from a man named Bill Smith through the Soldier Settlement Board. During the winter of 1918-19 Alex and Maggie and their two small children lived on the S.E. 7-45-10 to feed and care for a herd of cattle for a man named Booth. The following summer, they built a house on their own land and began farming. They rented the S.E. 4-45-10 from W. C. Comley and also rented the quarter of land known as the Jim Heron place which was located southwest of their farm.

Alex was a weed inspector for some time. Each morning he would leave in the old model T Ford car to tour the field lands making his inspection for noxious weeds. At that time, he had a big red roan milk cow named Dinah. As he always took Dinah's calves away as soon as they were born, Dinah seemed to regard him as her calf. Alex thought this practice made the cow a more productive milker. If he was a bit later than usual in coming home, at milking time Dinah would be waiting at the gate for him. One evening Maggie put on Dad's hat, his coveralls and jacket and then sat down with a pail by Dinah with plans of milking her. Dinah soon put an end to that plan -- with a quick look and then a kick, she was gone.

Percy Jones of Irma bought hogs and cattle from us. It used to be a real treat to shop in McFarlands' store.

Through the years four more children were born to Alex and Maggie. They were Iola, Jimmy, Dudley and Kitty.

All of the O'Neill children attended Melbrae school. They lived in the Coal Springs school district but as Melbrae was one mile nearer their home than was Coal Springs, an agreement was made between the two school districts that a tuition fee of sixteen dollars per year for their attendance be paid to the Melbrae school district by the Coal Springs district. We rode the three and one-half miles to school on horseback and sometimes in the winter went by horse and cutter. The memories of Melbrae school days and school friends are fond ones.

Jim and Bessie Stead and family were our close neighbors for a few years before they moved to a farm north of Irma. Our family enjoyed their company very much and there were many evenings spent playing cards at our house with the Steads. Their visits continued until they moved to Lethbridge.

We also enjoyed the friendship of our neighbors, the Tweedys and the Herons. The Carl Lindquists and the James and Arthur Russell and the Bill Russell family also were good neighbors living near us.

In April of 1943, Alex and Maggie rented their farm out and moved to Sedgewick. Later, they moved their house to Sedgewick where it is still in use today with the trees they planted by it now grown tall.

Alex drove a school bus for a time taking children to and from Sedgewick school. He was also the night policeman and with this job he delivered the mail to the post office when it arrived on the trains at two a.m.

Their next move was to Viking, where he rented the Corner Service Station at the south end of main street. He had a good business and he and Maggie enjoyed living there. However, the place was purchased by Don Hollar in 1946, so they again returned to Sedgewick where he



Kitty, Dudley and Jimmy O'Neill on "Bess", 1937.

began work in the butcher shop owned by Howard Smith. He enjoyed this job and continued to work there until he passed away suddenly on June 5th, 1954. By this time, all of the children were grown and away from home. Maggie was in ill health but continued living in Sedgewick and spending time with her children until her passing on July 12th, 1961.

Margaret O'Neill married Chester Falla. They had one daughter, Bernice. Margaret and Chester are both deceased.

Tommy O'Neill married Elaine Billow. They live in Red Deer. Tommy is a heavy duty mechanic. They have one daughter, Bonnie and two sons, Tom and Jack.

Iola O'Neill married Edwin Overbo. They had one son, Randy and four daughters, Loxee, Sandra, Peggy and Cathy. Edwin Overbo passed away in 1979.

James (Jimmy) O'Neill died at the age of twenty-nine years in 1958 of cancer.

Dudley O'Neill married Olive Christianson. They live on an acreage north of Wetaskiwin. Dudley is a heavy duty mechanic. They have four daughters, Lori, Shelley, Patti and Shannan.

Kitty O'Neill is unmarried and lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba. After serving six years in the Canadian Air Force she worked with Federal Electric at the Edmonton Communications Center with the Dew Line (Distant Early Warning Line). She was transferred to Winnipeg to continue the work with the Dew Line until it was discontinued upon governmental decision. Next she worked for the Winnipeg Tribune Newspaper until its closure in 1980. She is now employed in communications at the Winnipeg Airport.

Our O'Neill family was not rich as in "wealth" but we were a family that was rich in love and affection that has lasted through all the years.

Speak With Care

**A gardener who begins to sow
Can't always tell how the seeds will grow;
And we can't tell when we utter a word
How it might affect the ones who've heard.**

ALFRED ORACHESKI FAMILY

by Alfred and Shirley

In 1944 the William Oracheski family moved to the Batt Valley from the Bruce area. Frances, Joe and Mike had come to work at the Holt ranch before their parents made the move. Kenneth, Margaret, Evelyn, Andy, Edward and Alfred all attended the Batt school and later some in Irma.

In 1952, the present home now occupied by Alfred, Shirley Ann, Cathy and David, was built. Gradually each one left home to make a life of their own, leaving Alfred to do the farming. They would come home week-ends and holidays for some of Mom's wonderful cooking and help trim the hedges and cut the grass that beautifies this yard.



Cathy, Alfred, Shirley and David Oracheski.

After a year of courting and years of looking, Alfred finally decided to tie the knot and married Shirley Ann Evans of the Phillips district, on Easter Monday, April 19th, 1965. They lived in a trailer for about a year. Catherine Louise (Cathy) arrived on January 7th, 1966 and before David Evan arrived on February 7th, 1967, they had moved into the big house, as Louise and Bill Oracheski moved to a lovely home in Wainwright. Shirley and Alf have managed to keep the yard just like Mrs. Oracheski Sr. left it and get many compliments that the yard is like walking through a small park.

Both Alf and Shirley Ann are active in the Elks and O.O.R.P. Lodges of Kinsella and Alfred being Exalted Ruler in 1983-84 season, and belong to the Swinging Beavers Square Dance Club in Bruce. Cathy had been a figure skater for many years, but now is involved in a new sport of "Ringette". David enjoyed hockey and was at the Bantam level this 1981-82 season. They both belonged to the 4H Beef Club in Irma. In 1981 David had the

Reserve Champion Calf in the Junior Class, and best homegrown Charolais calf from the family herd. His calf in 1982 was the heaviest the club has ever had, weighing 1402 pounds.

Shirley has many pen pals from all over the world and has met with her pal from Trinidad, who has family living in Edmonton.

In the spring of 1981 Alf had the misfortune of breaking his leg in two places, but the good neighbors of the Batt Valley soon got together and had the cultivating and seeding done in record time. A big thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

Alf and Shirley had talked of building a new house on the present site, but as we go to the press no plans are in the making.

On June 3rd, 1983, Cathy graduated from Grade twelve, along with fourteen classmates. This was a very special day for Cathy as she delivered the Class Will and Class Prophecy along with Mona McKay. This day was extra special to Alfred, having his daughter graduate on his birthday. In September, 1983 Cathy attended Lakeland College in Vermilion and took a course in Secretarial Arts. Cathy received a fifteen hundred dollar scholarship from the Alexander Rutherford Foundation to further her studies.

ORACHESKI, EDWARD WILLIAM

Ed attended school at Iron Creek and Batt and took his high school in Sedgewick.

In 1955 he joined the Air Force and was stationed at London, Ontario, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Winnipeg, Manitoba and also Prince Edward Island. Later he returned east and attended Carleton University in Ottawa.

In 1960 he married Morag Carruthers. They have two children Beth in grade twelve and Ian in grade ten.

Ed and Morag are both employed by the Government, Ed by the Public Works Canada, and Morag works for the House of Commons.

ORACHESKI, EVELYN HELEN

Evelyn attended school at Iron Creek. When her family moved to the Batt district she attended Batt then the Irma School. After completing school Evelyn worked at branches of the Bank of Montreal in Wainwright, Irma, and Viking for four years.

In 1954 she married Stuart Helfrich. They have eight children.

Lavonne, married Bob Hailes, they have one son Jarett. Lavonne is in special education, she was a student teacher at Irma School in 1981 and taught at Morinville the 1983-84 term. They reside in Edmonton.

Elizabeth is employed with NCR in Calgary, after attending the University of Alberta.

Veronica (Helfrich) Pinkoski graduated from the University of Alberta in Early Childhood Education. She taught in Morinville, then Provost. In 1983 she married Terry Pinkoski in Wainwright where they reside and Veronica teaches.

Stuart (Skip) Helfrich attended and graduated from High School in Sherwood Park in 1978 and is employed with Levitt-Safety. He married Doreen Gibson in 1982, they are now living in Winnipeg.

Owen is attending University of Alberta in Faculty of Engineering.

Krista is in her second year of Rehabilitation Practitioner at Grant McEwen College.

Melanie and Neil are at home.

The family has lived in Sherwood Park for the past eighteen years. Evelyn is presently employed with Union Carbide in Edmonton.

FRANCES ORACHESKI (MATTHEW)

I attended Iron Creek school from primary till grade nine. My first teacher was A. Burham. One thing I remember about her she brought her china doll to school to show us. In grade nine I went to Rich School from September till December, then back to Iron Creek the rest of the year. Helen Stimpson was my teacher for most of the nine years. She married Fred West and we have been in contact with each other for most of our lives. She had a boy the same age as Gloria. Helen West passed away October 29th, 1982 at Edmonton.

Next two years I attended Bruce High School. Those were the days, walking to school three and one-half miles and more in summer when cows had to be taken to the pasture on the way to school and then brought back home on the way from school. In the winter we tried to keep a path like the deer across the field to school to make it shorter, over snowbanks and around others. The children riding school busses nowadays don't know what they're missing, and we were healthier because we had to dress warmer and didn't freeze to death like the kids do these days waiting for the bus and when they leave the bus.

I went to work at Ryley for Mrs. Stephen on a farm and Mr. Stephen also ran a coal mine about six and one-half miles south of Ryley. Then I came home and worked in Viking for Laurie Rasmusen at the White Spot Cafe, from there I went to work for Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Wade till the spring of 1938, when I went to work for Gladys Holt at the ranch.

THE JOE ORACHESKI FAMILY

by Hazel (Wyand) Oracheski

Joe was born on a farm southwest of Viking and attended Iron Creek school. After leaving school he worked for neighboring farmers and at home until he came to Irma to work at the Holt ranch in April, 1939. I was born on a farm near Heward, Saskatchewan, and attended a nearby school until we moved to the Irma district in the fall of 1937. After completing school I helped on my parents' dairy farm and delivered milk until Joe and I were married.

We lived with the Oracheski family in the Batt district for some time while we fixed up a large room in the Therou house near Batt school and lived there until we moved to a house at the ranch. In early November, 1948,

after the ranch was sold to the Hutterite colony, Joe and I and our two small boys moved into the old bakery on Main Street in Irma, and Joe left for Edson to truck lumber for Vernon Bjork. Shortly after moving I was hospitalized in Viking for ten days before finding out I had tuberculosis. I was transferred to the Isolation Wing of the Royal Alexandra Hospital where I settled into a ward of eight. The boys were well cared for by their grandparents, Ronnie stayed with the Oracheski family and Dennis with the Wyands, while Joe continued trucking. Almost every day I received a letter from my mother, occasionally Dad forgot to mail a letter so I enjoyed two the following day. Those were the days when you could post a letter in the afternoon and be assured it would be delivered the next morning. I will always be grateful to our families and friends for their letters, gifts and visits which helped to boost my morale during those three long years. By November, 1951 I had regained my health, gained some very good friends, learned a great deal about patience, had my love for nature intensified and was turned free! Since Joe was custom-hauling propane out of the city we made our home in Edmonton. In 1954 we became commuting farmers when we bought school land -W1/2-11-47-10 in the Batt district. In the fall of 1959 we bought the Bill Patterson farm and moved back to live near Irma on S.E. 25-45-9 in April of 1960. Dennis had continued to live with his grandparents and attended school in Irma but Ronnie attended school in Edmonton until our move. We had also been joined by three sons and a daughter- Gordon, Randy, Keith and Carol before moving and Elaine, Gary and Laurie were born in the Wainwright Hospital. We have a mixed farm and during the last several winters Joe has hauled propane in the Irma, Wainwright and Vermilion area for Mutual Propane.



Hazel and Joe Oracheski's 25th anniversary. Back Row: Louise Oracheski, Myrtle Wyand. Front Row: Joe and Hazel.

Now a little bit about our family. Ron and Peggy live in Irma and have two boys and two girls - Trevor, Rodney, Stacey and Lisa and their story will follow. Dennis, although he has his Master's in Science has chosen a computer programming business in Edmonton. Gordon, after working several years as an insulator started Lakeland Insulation in Irma in the fall of 1980 and lives on an acreage on our farm. Randy, Nancy and Chantelle live in Edmonton where Randy is an apprentice

welder. Nancy works for Revenue Canada in Collections and Chantelle attends play school. Keith lives in Edmonton. Carol lives at home and works at Falcon Enterprises in Wainwright. At the present time she rides with Debbie Nissen. Elaine lives in Edmonton and works for Revenue Canada in Audit. Gary and Annie live in Irma where he is an apprentice with Lakeland Insulation. Laurie lives in Edmonton and is not working at present. I forgot to mention that Keith had his leg amputated in an accident and many may be wondering how he is. He takes a very active part in an amputee athletic club and has won several medals at their Olympics across Canada. Each fall he comes home and helps with combining.

Elaine married Doug Scott of New Brunswick, they have a baby daughter.

Gordon married Sharon Johnson.

Laurie married Richard Day, they have a daughter.

We considered ourselves lucky to live so close to the arena when we had several of the family playing hockey and involved in figure skating at the same time. We enjoy collecting antiques, coins and stamps, old-time dancing and being a part of the Irma Community.



Joe Orcheski Family, 1984: Laurie, Gary, Carol, Ron, Gordon, Joe, Randy, Elaine. Seated: Hazel. Inset: Dennis and Keith.

LOUIS AND VERA ORACHESKI

by Louis Orcheski

I left Holts' in the fall of 1946 and went to Prince George with Bob Normandeau to look for work. I came back to Edson and finally got a job with the C.N.R. at Mountain Park in 1947. The pay was seventy-four cents an hour. I worked for the C.N.R. for eight years. In 1956 I got a job at the Wainwright Refinery, working there for six years until it closed down. I bought a half section of land north of Wainwright which I farm as well as do some carpenter work.

I married Vera Prosser, who was born in the Irma district and went to school there. Before we were married she worked in the Wainwright Hospital, and after our family were all in school she went to work at the Auxiliary Hospital, where she has been employed for the last ten years. Our family of five children attended Wainwright schools.

Larry married Lyn Schenstad of Lloydminster. Their daughter, Terry Lyn was a baby when Larry had a serious accident in September, 1972 near North Battleford, while changing a tire at work. Following major surgery in Saskatoon University Hospital, he was unconscious for forty-three days. It took a long time for Larry to recover and as a result his wife and baby left him. Finally Larry found employment in Edmonton and boarded with his cousins, Ron and Peggy Orcheski. A nice blonde, Brenda Mielke, formerly of Provost, a cousin of Peggy's, was also boarding there. Larry and Brenda were married on August 15th, 1979 and are proud parents of Christine Anita, who was born on July 27th, 1981. Larry works for Canada Dry. A son joined the family in 1984.

Lenny joined the Navy when he had completed high school, and has been stationed at Halifax and Victoria. He took university studies while in the Navy and he has advanced to Lieutenant.

Maureen joined the R.C.M.P. shortly after graduating from high school and since taking basic training in Regina, she has been stationed at Wilkie, Saskatchewan. For the last five years she has been in Lloydminster where she is on duty in rural areas.

Lionel worked part-time work at a garage while attending high school and after finishing school became an



The Louis Orcheski Family: Lenny, Lionel, Larry, Karen, Louis, Vera, Maureen.

KENNETH DONALD ORACHESKI

Ken attended Batt, Kinsella and Irma schools and after finishing school attended the Vermilion School of Agriculture. He sold insurance for a while then decided to become a welder. He operated his own welding business in Medicine Hat for several years. Recently he and his wife Pat moved to Red Deer where Ken is an insurance salesman. Ken and Pat have three boys - Darrel, Cory and Jeffrey. Ken has four children from a previous marriage - Kelli, Duane and twins Derrek and Denise.

apprentice partsman for Wain-Alta Motors in Wainwright. He continues working for them now that he has finished his apprenticeship.

Since finishing school Karen has completed a hair-dressing course in Edmonton and is now employed in that city in her profession.



Heather, Darrel, Gail, Morris, Marjorie, Lyle, Mike, Tannis and Chris Oracheski.

MIKE ORACHESKI

by Marjorie Oracheski

Mike was born and raised south of Bruce, Alberta, where he took his schooling at Iron Creek school. In 1941 he came to work at the Holt Ranch north of Jarrow, as his brother Joe and sister Frances had done before him. In 1944 his parents purchased the Dennison place near Batt school. Mike also bought land and some cattle and started farming with his family.

In November, 1951, he married Marjorie Chase of Irma, and in the spring of 1952 they bought the Geo. Bridgeman place, the S.1/2 3-47-10-W4th. In 1957 they bought Bill Meakins farm and moved the house from there one half mile north to the farm site as it is now. Marjorie's uncle bought the Bridgeman house, moved it into Wainwright and remodelled and sold it. It's still a home in east Wainwright today.

Mike and Marjorie raised seven children. Lyle and his wife live on the Tony Piowar farm north of Kinsella. Lyle farms with his brothers and their Dad. Lyle purchased the Arthur Landers land in the spring of 1981. In July of 1981, Lyle and Debbie presented Mike and Marjorie with their first Oracheski grandson.

Heather married James Barss of Irma and they and their three children, Trent, Teri and Tricia live on a farm just north of the Albert Community Centre.

Morris and wife Marie left the carpentry business in Camrose in the spring of 1981 to come farming. They bought land from Les Prosser and lived on this farm with their daughter Shiela and baby son Michael.

Darrel attended NAIT for two years, in business administration. He now has a truck and cherry picker which he contracts to Puma Oil Well Services of Lloydminster. He owns land also and helps out on the

farm spring and fall. Darrel married Gladys Ganie. They have two children.

Tannis and her husband Bob Prepchuk reside in Inuvik, N.W.T., where Bob is Personnel Manager for the Territorial Government and Tannis is a travel agent for Mack Travel.

Gail completed two years at NAIT in Architectural Technology. She is married to Dale Tomlinson of Irma and is employed by Cargill Grain at present.

Chris graduated from high school in June of 1981 and went to work for Lakeland Industrial Insulation that same month. He is now working with his brother Darrel. Chris married Gail Bulton.

Mike and Marjorie have been active in the community. They belong to the Elks and Royal Purple Lodges in Kinsella, where they have held numerous offices. They and the children were involved with 4H Beef and Food clubs. Their youngsters all learned to swim at the Kinsella gravel pit and as a result they all enjoy water skiing. Most winters the young people get away for a weekend snow skiing. The girls also were active in figure skating and school band.

RON ORACHESKI FAMILY

by Peggy Oracheski

Ron was born in Viking, Alberta on September 9, 1945, oldest son of Joe and Hazel Oracheski. He started school at Batt and then attended Grovenor School in Edmonton for grades two and three, and continued on at King Edward Park until he was part way through grade nine. He finished his schooling in Irma.

After finishing school he worked at home on the farm, for nearby farmers, and worked for the M.D. of Wainwright before moving to Edmonton where he worked at Bailey Farms, a large dairy farm.

On October 23, 1971, Ron married Peggy Dyer, daughter of Roy and Nancy Dyer. Born and raised in Wainwright, Peggy took all her schooling at the local schools and was employed at Armstrongs Tom Boy Store at the time of the wedding. They took up residence in Edmonton where Ron began a new job with Fiberglas of Canada.



Ron Oracheski Family: Peggy, Stacey, Lisa, Ron. In front are Trevor and Rodney.

We have four children, two boys and two girls, all born in Edmonton, Trevor, (1972), Rodney (1974), Stacey (1975), and Lisa (1977).

In June of 1978 we purchased Nathan Fuder's trailer and took up residence in Irma. Ron continued to work at Fiberglas for a time but in July, 1981, due to recession on building trade, he decided to quit his job when he found employment with Russell Hanson Contractor, where he is at present employed from spring until freeze up. He also rents land from his dad and farms on his days off. During the winter he works for Lakeland Insulations. Peggy worked for Irma Restaurant, Irma Co-op as a bookkeeper and has been employed with Lakeland Insulations for three years.

STAN ORACHESKI

I graduated from Iron Creek School in grade 9 in 1944 and attended Irma and Wainwright High Schools. In 1947-48 I supervised at the House Lake School south of Greenshields. In the fall of 1949 I started apprenticing at Johnstone's Rexal Drug Store for two years. I attended the U. of A. in Pharmacy for one year and worked at the Alberta National Drug Co. for three years. Re-entered the U. of A. in 1955 in Education and graduated in 1959 with a B.Ed. and a B.A. in 1962. Spent three summers in the Canadian Arctic while at the University. Have been teaching since 1958 in Edmonton.

I married Margaret Gardner on July 2nd, 1959. We have five children, Kevin, John, Janice, Sandra and Steven, ages twenty-one to fifteen.

I have participated in many sports over the years including softball, bowling, curling, golf and swimming. For the past six years I have become very active in jogging



Mike Oracheski, Babe Carter, Joe Oracheski.



V. Carter and F. Oracheski and Colin Peeking out door.

and road racing and have participated in over sixty races from mile to marathon. In 1983 I won the Canadian title for the Men's Masters (55 to 59 years) ten Km. Championship held in Edmonton. We are now residents of Edmonton, Alberta.

WILLIAM ORACHESKI FAMILY

Our father, William Oracheski, was born in Poland on August 10, 1884, and worked as a miner. In 1910 he borrowed money from his father and left for the United States. He landed in New York and found work as a miner near Newark, New Jersey. He worked there until he had repaid his father and had sufficient funds to travel to Round Hill, Alberta, where he joined a brother and sister, and worked in the coal mine.

Our mother, Louise Rabby, arrived in the Bruce district as a baby with her family from Poland in 1902 and they became farmers. She attended school at Rich and on June 27, 1916 at Polska Roman Catholic Church she became the bride of William Oracheski.

The following spring they bought a quarter section of land in the Iron Creek district six miles south of Bruce and soon they were raising cattle, pigs, chickens, ducks and geese, growing grain and a garden, and raising a family of twelve children - eleven born in their farm home. In the early years Father worked in the mine at Round Hill during the winter. In order of birth the family consists of: Frances, Joe, Mike, Louis, Emmie, Stan, Alfred, Andy, Evelyn, Eddie, Ken, and Margaret. Times were tough, especially during the early thirties, with the growing family. They sold cream to the Viking Creamery, raised cattle and hogs for sale and for food, wheat was hauled by team to Vegreville or Strome to be ground into flour, meals consisted mainly of things produced in the garden and the farm. Clothes were made by Mother and handed down from one child to the next. The children walked three miles each way to Iron Creek School and then four or five miles after that each spring and fall afternoon looking for cattle grazing on sections nearby that were open for pasture. When the open land was no longer available for pasture a nearby quarter of land was purchased. By this time the four oldest children were working at the Holt Ranch, north of Irma. When the Carl Dennison farm in the Batt district was for sale it was purchased and a nearby section of pasture rented, and our parents and the younger members of the family made the move to the Irma district in 1944. The younger children attended school at Batts and later at the Irma High School. A new house was built in 1951, constructed by Peter Stefanic of Vegreville, the husband of a former Irma girl, Mary Kuziek. Many good years followed. Mother's joy, beside her ever growing family, was her garden and yard.

In 1966 they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in Glasgow's Hall with pictures taken in the Irma School auditorium, with all their family in attendance. Also in 1966, Father and Mother retired from the farm to a nice home in Wainwright. Father passed away on June 18, 1968. Mother resides in her Wainwright home, has a small but bountiful garden and a lovely landscaped yard. She drives her car, is active with her



Wm. Orcheski's fiftieth wedding anniversary, 1966. Ed, Louis, Stan, Margaret Archibald, Alfred, Mike, Evelyn, Ken, Andy Stewart, Joe, Emmee Owen, Louise, Bill, Frances Matthew.

family and friends, in her church and enjoys having her family and friends in for a visit. She has fifty-nine grandchildren and thirty-seven great-grandchildren.

MILTON ORR

by Murle Larson

In the thirties Milton Orr operated one of the Jarrow elevators. Previous to this the family had run a restaurant in Jarrow. The Orrs had four children, Ethel, who wasn't too well, Dorothy, Wesley and Wendal.

The first I remember of the Orr family was in 1935 when my mother, Mrs. Lockhart, was ill so Mrs. Orr took Mabel and Cecil (a baby of five months) to look after. The Orr children, being older, really enjoyed looking after the younger Lockharts and were sad when Mabel and Cecil had to return home.

I don't remember when they left Jarrow, but they moved to the north end of Muriel Lake where they operated a sub-post office out of Bonnyville.

Mr. and Mrs. Orr and Ethel have since passed on. Dorothy (Mrs. Fitzpatrick) still lives in Calgary, as do Wesley and Wendal.



Milton Orr family. Weslie, Dorothy, Mr. Orr, Mrs. Orr, Wendall and Ethel.

A.E. (TED) ORTON

Ted and Sadie Orton emigrated from Staffordshire, England, to Rivers, Manitoba, in the spring of 1929 or 1930. A year later they moved to a Hudson Bay farm at Irma - S.E.1/4 8-45-8-W4th, now owned by Don and June Burton.

The Ortons left their small daughter, Jeanne, in the care of Grandma Orton. In the period they resided at Irma they proved to be good neighbors.

Ted, a good farmer, Sadie, a registered midwife, assisted at the birth of several infants. When the Alma Mater school had a young peoples group called the "Merry Makers", the Ortons were the chaperones and were well liked by all.

It was during this time a three act play was presented in several places. The profit was partially invested in purchasing a piano which was used in the Alma Mater school for years, later in North Irma Community Hall (Alma Mater and Ross combined) and presently in the New Horizons Drop in Centre.

Two children Marence and Brian were born here.

After a severe accident to Ted's hand, he decided he would require different employment. He obtained employment in the Ogden Shops in Calgary.

As the Second World War had now started he made a few trips back to Irma recruiting for the Armed services. Ted had been with the Coldstream Guards in England.

In the early days at Irma, neither they or a neighbor, the Dootsons, had a phone. To be alone with two small children couldn't have been easy. On one occasion when Bill Dootson called to see if supplies were needed, a notice was posted on the gate to say the youngsters had chicken pox. Later they had a farm sale and Sadie and the children went to live in Calgary.

About five years later they decided to return to England where their children were educated. On graduating as a nurse, Marence returned to Canada, bringing a girl friend. They were to be employed in the Taber, Alberta Hospital. About two years later they

both married prominent farm lads in the Purple Springs area, southeast of Taber.

Marence and Douglas Fletcher have four children, Donna, Blake (married November 12th, 1982), Garry and Bruce.

Brian came to Canada and obtained employment in British Columbia, working for Cominco. He married a Saskatchewan girl. He, his wife Irene, and two sons, spent two years in the Dominican Republic, then back to Castlegar, two years in Botswana, Africa, in California and presently in Arizona, U.S.A.

Ted and Sadie have made several trips back to Canada to visit relatives and friends; daughter Jeanne, accompanied them in 1978. They are keen on keeping in touch with old friends.



Sadie and Ted Orton with Marence and Brian - 1940.



Left to Right: Marjie Fischer, Ted Orton, Alice Cook, Sadie Orton, Adelaide Dootson, and Archie Cook at the Nisku Airport about 1961 when the Ortons were returning to England after a holiday.

BRIAN ORTON

Brian Orton was born to Ted and Sadie in Wainwright in 1939. They lived on S.E. 8-49-8 now owned by Don Burton. He and his family moved to Calgary in 1943 where he started school. In 1945 they moved to Tamworth, Staffordshire, England where he received much of his education. He was actively engaged in school sports and was a member of track and field, cricket, and rugby teams. In 1955 he went to work in Alder's Paper Mills as an apprenticed draughtsman. After further education he accepted a position as a design engineer. In 1966 he returned to Canada and in 1969 he married Irene Jaekle. They lived in Trail B.C. where Brian worked for Cominco as Senior Mechanical Engineer. Their two children, Paul and Derek, were born there. In 1970 he joined the army as a lieutenant following which he spent time in South Africa as Inspector of Mines for the government of Botswana and in Venezuela representing Bechtel Incorporated. He is presently working as a Bechtel consultant in a nuclear generating station in Phoenix, Arizona, where he and his wife and children enjoy endless sunshine and good health.

GEORGE AND NEVA OSBORNE

by Nerine Hunter

George and Neva Osborne homesteaded on N.E. 6-49-9-W4 which is now owned by Gordon Holt. The outside of their house was poles and mud; as I remember the inside was plaster. It was just a three-room house, so spotlessly clean inside you could eat off the floors. Their barn, garage and hen house were also built of poles and mud.

They had a daughter, Thelma, who married a policeman. Their son, Donald, as far as I know, is still a bachelor.

I can remember when I was a girl and we would go to Osbornes for a Sunday dinner. We would have jackrabbit to eat and we thought it was as good as chicken.

In later years they moved from Marlboro, Alberta, where they ran a store and they also had a mink ranch. One thing I remember when they lived in Marlboro was of our family (Claude Shippy's) going up there and picking cranberries.

They moved from Marlboro to Oliver, B.C. and from there I (Nerine) lost track of them.

JOHN OSTAD

John Ostad was born in Farewell, Minnesota and came to Canada with his parents in 1900 where the family homesteaded in the Wryburn district.

In 1914 he went to Norway to visit relatives and in 1916 joined the American army and was stationed in Iowa where he served as sergeant instructor until 1919. He worked the next three years in Cuba at a Spanish Iron Works. In 1924 he attended the Sweeny Auto School in Kansas and when he graduated he set up a garage business in Talmadge, Saskatchewan.

In 1926 he was united in marriage to Sophie Lovig of

Jarrow. In 1930 John moved his family this way working one year in Irma before settling here. Here he engaged in garage work and electrical wiring as proprietor of the Irma garage. He was widely and most favorably known. John and Sophie had three daughters, Clara, Laurna and Sharron. John passed away following an accident on September 27th, 1950.

Sophie and Clara Klontz make their homes in Wetaskiwin. Laurna is married and lives in Viking where her husband operates the I.G.A. store.



George and Neva Osborne with Christmas dinner.

OVERBO, GJERMUND (JOHN) EVINDSON

Gjermund (John) Overbo born in 1864 and Anne T. Berge born in 1865 were married in Aamotsdal Church, Telemarken, Norway. They farmed at Aamotsdal for a number of years.

In 1906, with a family of six boys and one girl, the Overbo's left Norway to begin homesteading in Canada. Two more boys were added to the family in Canada completing a family of nine children.

Gjermund Overbo first filed on a homestead near Bawlf, but in the spring of 1907 they moved on. This time he filed on the S.W. 18-46-10-W4 near Gratton Lake hoping it might become the Jarrow townsite. When the railroad came through, the site chosen was three miles east of Gjermund's homestead.

Gjermund was an excellent skier, having learned as a child in the mountains of Norway and he would travel many miles on skis. All his children learned to ski on skis which he made for them. He served on the Gratton School Board and his son Tom was secretary-treasurer. Several of the younger children attended Gratton School.

Tired out from such a large family and the hard work of pioneer life, Anne Overbo died in 1920. Gjermund Overbo died suddenly of heart failure in 1921. Both are buried at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Loughheed.

Gjermund sons Tom, John and Knut all farmed in the

Jarrow district. Daughter Alice married Arthur Overby and they lived many years on her father's homestead. Ed, Herman and Olaf farmed south of Kinsella. Johann taught school for many years and Lewis started a business in Edmonton. Times change, people move away or pass on. Today the only ones left in this area are Mrs. Knut (Hilda) Overbo and their son Clifford and his family.



Knut, Darlene and Hilda, Edward and Clifford, Overbo.

OVERBO FAMILY

Knut and Hilda were born in Norway but met and married in Canada. They farmed all their married life on a farm between Jarrow and Kinsella. Knut was a home body and spent his time working about the farm. Hilda likes to travel when she can. Since Knut's death Hilda continues to live on the farm.

The Overbo's had three children: Clifford, Edward and Darlene - all born in Viking Hospital. They attended Jarrow school. Clifford and Edward took some schooling in Kinsella, and some in Irma.

Edward graduated with a B.Sc. in Geology from the University of Alberta. Jobs were scarce so he went back to the U. of A. and graduated with a Bachelor of Education. He now teaches in the Camrose area. Edward is married and has three sons.

Darlene, after graduating from high school, became a teacher. In 1966 she married Dave Dahle and they have two children.

Clifford decided to become a farmer. He bought land adjacent to his father's and they farmed together for a number of years.

In 1956 he married Frances Brown of Kinsella. They built a house on their land and still reside there. The house was built where the Gratton school originally stood. The school was moved in 1918 and the Gratton School district was disbanded in 1922.

Clifford was active in sports especially softball. He also umpired softball.

Clifford and Frances have two children, Kelly, born in 1960, took his schooling in Kinsella and Viking. He received his diploma in Building Construction Technology from N.A.I.T. He has a business in this area. Kelly also has his Fastball Umpire's badge.

Karen graduated from Grant McEwan College as a Travel Consultant and is employed in Edmonton. She referees basketball in her spare time.

Clifford and Frances are active in the Kinsella community. They belong to the Kinsella Elks and Royal Purple.



Karen, Francis, Cliff and Kelly on August 8th, 1981. Cliff and Francis Overbo's twenty-fifth anniversary.

ARTHUR OVERBY

I was born in Telemarken, Norway October 2nd, 1896. I was the second child of a family of four. Margaret, who was the oldest girl, passed away in North Dakota as did my mother. My sister Annie who married Ole Overbo was the third child and youngest was my brother Knute.

In 1904 our family immigrated to Stanley, Wisconsin where Dad worked in a sawmill and brick factory. In 1906 our family moved to Williston, North Dakota where Dad took a homestead. In 1908 he left his family there and went to Kinsella where he homesteaded the S.E. 4-46-11-W4th. He returned to North Dakota and then moved his family to Kinsella in the spring of 1911. For the next five years I worked on various farms in the Norwegian settlement south of Kinsella.

In 1916 accompanied by Tom, Herman, and Ole Overbo I went to North Dakota and worked on farms until that fall, then went to Eureka, Montana working as a lumberman, which I did off and on for the next three years. During this time I worked for many logging firms all up and down the southwest area of the United States. Some of the places were Kalispell, Mount Ranier, Tacoma, and Portland, Oregon to name a few.

In the spring of 1919 I went back to Kinsella where I worked for Alex Sorenson near Lougheed. While there I

had the misfortune to lose all my possessions in a house fire. This was a great loss to me as I had many pictures and moments of my experiences and travels to this time.

In the fall of 1919 I went working in the Rumsey and Morin district near Drumheller where I stayed until the fall of 1920 when I returned to Kinsella and ran the grain separator for John Gardner.

On November 26th, 1924 I married Alice Overbo in Viking, Alberta. We stayed that winter with Knute and Tom Overbo. In the spring of 1925 we rented the S.W. 18-46-10-W4th from my brother Knute Overby, and began our career in farming, which lasted close to fifty years.

When Alice and I got married we had eight hundred dollars between us and with that money we bought all the necessary cattle and machinery we needed to farm. We bought ten milk cows at an auction sale for the total sum of one hundred dollars. A couple of years later we bought this land and resided there until we moved to Viking.

Our daughter Vivian, was born August 24th, 1931 and she went to school in Jarrow, Kinsella and Irma. She is married and lives in Spokane, Washington.

In later years we bought that part of 13-46-11 that lies north of Lake Vernon. We milked cows, raised beef and grain and enjoyed our life on the farm at Jarrow very much.

In 1973 we sold our land to Arnold Lien, bought a house in Viking and moved there. In the following years Alice had poor health and went to the nursing home where she passed away March, 1982. I still have good health and get out and around every day.

(Arthur passed away in 1984.)



Arthur and Alice Overby lived and farmed for many years on S.W. 18-46-10.

EMMIE OWEN

Emmie attended Iron Creek School and took her high school at Bruce and Irma. After completing grade twelve she taught school as a supervisor at Rodino, north of Kinsella and House Lake, southeast of Wainwright. She decided to become a nurse so she moved out to the coast and took her training at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria.

In 1950 Emmie married Lee Owen. They lived in Vancouver until 1966 when they moved to San Diego, California. They have five children - Lenore, married with three children; Donna lives in Cleveland, Ohio - she has her Masters in Psychology; Pamela is married and Christopher and Gregory are at home. Emmie is still nursing.

ERNIE OWEN FAMILY

Ernie Owen was born in Hardisty in 1932 and lived in the Metropolitan district. He was the ninth child of Leonard and Addie Owen. His dad died in 1945 and in 1947 his mother and sister Connie moved to Irma. He finished his schooling and worked on the farm with his brother, Sonny. He also worked at the Co-op store in Irma for a few years.

In 1953 he married Gladys Clesson and to this union were born two children, Erna and Cindy. They adopted Gladys' children, Gail and Jerry. In 1962 they moved to the Albert Johnson farm.

In 1967 Ernie divorced Gladys and married Christina Erickson, daughter of Gunner and Agnes, who lived north of Jarrow cemetery. Christina was born on mother and father Miller's farm on September 29th, the first day of winter in 1935. Christina worked at Swifts packing plant for seventeen years. Ernie and Christina had a daughter, Treena Elaine, on December 3rd, 1969.

Ernie had open heart surgery in September, 1973. In January, 1975 he had severe heart attacks which left him in poor health. They moved to Viking in June, 1979. On September 20th, 1979 Ernie passed away in Edmonton. Christina and Treena still live in Viking. The older girls are married and live in Edmonton and there are four grandchildren.

The Gertsmas now live on their farm, the Albert Johnson homestead.



Ernie and Christina Owen and family.

JIMMY OWEN (H.G. AND FAMILY)

Jimmy was born on June 29th, 1927 in the Sampson house in Irma (the Doctor's house at that time). He was the second oldest son of Lenard and Addie Owen. He lived in the Metropolitan district until he was fifteen years old. He then started working for different people on farms. He also worked in the bush for five winters, in the Peace River district.

On October 20th, 1949 he married Violet Funk. The first year we lived in the Pendleton house, farmed one quarter section with horses. We had three milk cows and some pigs. We sold cream for grocery money. One cow died after calving, which was quite a setback. We had to keep the calf in the basement so it wouldn't die, as it was winter and we had lots of snow and very cold weather.

Then we moved to the Strawberry Plains district to my sister and brother-in-law's place (Bill Ewert). We farmed their place and ours over west. We bought the Szoke place which was just across the road from where we lived, and lived there for three years. The Army bought our land among others at this time. We then bought the Johnson place near Jarrow where we lived for about four years. While living there we got Calgary Power and bought our first frig. What a treat! We then moved to the Knudson place, in the Irma district again. Here we had our first phone, which was nice even if there were about twelve people on the same line.

We rented this place for a few years, then bought it. We lived there for about ten years, then moved across the road into the Fuder place in 1967, where we still live.

We have a family of three girls and two boys. Joan, the oldest, is a nurse, has been married and divorced. She has a girl Judi, who is now six years old. Joan and Judi live in Edmonton.

Kathy, the second eldest, is a teacher. She is married to Ron Arnold and lives in Edmonton.



Jim and Violet seated. Back Row, Left to Right: Joan, Rodney, Kathy, Jim, Jr. and Barbara Owen.

Barb, the youngest girl is married to Art Matthews, son of Frances and Scotty, and lives in Coquitlam, B.C. They have a girl Carissa, and a boy Doug.

Rod, the oldest son, is living with Barb now, hoping to make a career with singing.

Jim, the youngest son, is at home farming. He just bought some land about twelve miles west of here. He has also rented our land.

THE OWEN FAMILY

Leonard Owen was born May 11th, 1885 in Summerside, P.E.I. As a young boy he worked his way across Canada, working for the Free Press Prairie Farmer. In 1906 he came to the Metropolitan district and filed on the north-half of 12-45-11-W4th. This land had been filed on in 1905 and given up. He built a sod shack on his homestead and bached until 1911 when he married Addie Reber.

To this marriage were born ten children: Helen; triplets, Elsie, Elvie and Ellen; and Alice, Leonard, Doris, Jim, Ernie and Connie. Ellen died in infancy. Five children, including the triplets, were born in the sod shack.

In 1917 Leonard purchased the S.W. 24-45-11-W4th from Arnold Christenson; the family took up residence there. Five children were born at this location. The children all attended Metropolitan school, walking in summer and riding horseback in winter.

The eldest daughter, Helen, married Bill Saul. They lived in Chauvin and when Bill enlisted, they moved to Edmonton. They had two children, Joyce and Owen. Bill died after the war and Helen still is living in Edmonton.

In August 1913 the triplets arrived. Two survived - Elsie and Elvie. Elvie married Lawrence Kelly. They had seven children: Don, Elsie, Floyd (died in March, 1933), Corrine, Larry, Lynn and Myra. Lawrence and Elvie made their home in Lisburn, Edmonton and Sangudo. Lawrence passed away in 1975 and Elsie lives in Sangudo near her children. Elsie married William Reber and they have a son Gary. They lived at Valleyview until 1978 when they moved to Langley, B.C. where Gary and family live.

Alice married Francis Johnson. They had seven children: Kay, Wendy, Karen, Marilyn, Teresa and Randall. A son died when three days old in 1940. Kay, Terry, and Randy live at Lougheed, Wendy in Edmonton, Karen in Viking, Mary at Smokey Lake, Alice and Francis are retired and living in Sedgewick.

Leonard (Sonny) married Joyce Sirois and had five children - Lenora, Carol, Kenneth, Janet and Marvin. Sonny passed away in July, 1961. Joyce passed away in September, 1969. The girls live in Edmonton and the boys farm.

Doris married Howard Waddell and they have four boys, Leonard, Murray, Richard and Donald, all of whom live at Edgerton.

Jim married Violet Funk and they have five children, Joan, Kathy, Barbara and Rodney and Jim Jr. They farm near Sharon Church.

Ernie married Christine Erickson and had a daughter

Trena. Ernie had two daughters Erna and Cindy by a previous marriage. Ernie is deceased.

Connie married Louis Fornal of Viking and have three children, Dianne, Dean and Cindy.

Mr. Owen farmed until his death in 1945. At this time son Leonard took over the farming. After his death Ernie farmed it until ill health caused him to retire. Kenneth and Marvin farm the land. Following Mr. Owen's death, Mrs. Owen lived in Irma, then Viking where she passed away in 1975.



Sonny, Leonard (Dad), Helen (Saul), Elsie (Kelly), Alice (Johnson), and Elsie (Reber), Mother (Addie); Small children from left: baby Joyce Saul, Donnie and Elsie Kelly, Ernie, Doris (Waddell), and Jim.

H.E. (NED) AND NANCY ORPHA PARKE

H.E. (Ned) Parke was born at Manchester, England, in 1877 and emigrated to Canada to take up farming, first in Manitoba, then Humbolt, Saskatchewan. In 1910 he filed on a homestead north of Youngstown, Alberta and brought his full line of machinery, one cow and seven long horned oxen to break the new land. Here he met and married Nancy Orpha (Marsh) Kirby. They continued to farm until the late 20's, then moved into Youngstown and he took up cooking and sales work.

In 1933 they moved to Irma where he later served as night watchman for several years. On May 12th, 1949 he passed away.

Nancy Orpha Parke was born in Medford, North Dakota on June 11, 1866. She taught school in Minnesota and North Dakota. After moving to Canada in 1910 she resumed teaching near Gadsby, Alberta, then in the Youngstown district where she and her son homesteaded.

In 1933 Mrs. Parke moved with her husband to Irma where she resided till her death.

Mrs. Parke was an active community worker in the cause of Temperance. She was a life member of W.C.T.U. for which organization she was Provincial Secretary for a number of years, but ill health forced her to resign. Mrs. Parke was predeceased by her husband H.E. Parke in 1949 and her son Frank Kirby in 1932. Mrs. Park passed away in 1955.



H.C. Parke, Frank Kirby, Nancy O. Parke.

WES PARSONS FAMILY

by Wes and Betty Parsons

My father, George Parsons, was born at Sonora, North Dakota. After spending his youth in North Dakota and Minnesota, his father and family came to Canada to Fort Francis where Grandad worked for MacKenzie and Mann, contractors building the Canadian Northern Railway. Dad got his first work also with MacKenzie and Mann as a timber cruiser. When MacKenzie and Mann first got in trouble Grandad and his family journeyed to Calgary and then Edmonton, arriving in 1904. Grandad worked for a coal mining company and Dad went to Vancouver. In the spring of 1909 Grandad, Dad and Uncle Stewart arrived in the Orbindale district and took up homesteads, Grandad on S.E. 12-47-8 and Dad on N.W. 12-47-8. Uncle Stewart homesteaded N.W. 4-47-8. Grandmother stayed in Edmonton with the rest of the

family. Grandfather built a house on his homestead and Dad and Uncle Stewart lived with him. During the summer Aunt Mildred would come to the homestead and live. After she got her teacher's certificate she came to stay and taught school at Orbindale, Albert and Ross before going to Wetaskiwin to teach.

Grandad and Dad both played the violin and played for dances in the area. When World War One broke out Uncle Stewart and his chum Albert Dalton joined the army. They were both killed in the Battle of Passchendale in France. Albert was killed first and Uncle Stewart a week later. That is where the Passchendale school and district got its name. Dad joined the army in 1916 in the Machine Gun Corp but didn't get overseas. He was discharged in 1918. After the war, Dad's sister and brother, Aunt Ada and Uncle Pearce, had finished school and Grandmother wanted to go back to the United States. Grandad and Dad sold their property, stock and equipment and in the spring of 1919 Grandad and Grandmother moved to Maine, U.S.A. After a few years they moved to De Land, Florida where they lived until their deaths. Grandmother died in 1933 and Grandad in 1952.

Dad and Mother (Flora Coultman) were married in June 1919 and moved to Newfane, Vermont where I was born. In 1922 Dad and Mother came back to Alberta because they were having trouble with the farm. That is when Jack Ballentine bought the farm. My parents then moved to North Brookfield, New York where Howard was born in 1923 and Leonard in 1924. We lived there until March 1929 when we moved to Ontario. We lived there until 1934 when we moved to the Irma district landing here on May 24. We moved to a little house on S.W. 9-47-8 where Howard, Leonard and I went to school at Avonglen. When school finished in June 1935 I went to live with Stanton and Gar Coultman. In 1936 I finished school, going to Orbindale school where my teacher was Mr. Gunn. It was these years from 1934 to 1940 that were some of the best years of my life - playing softball in the summer and hockey in the winter. It was



Wes and Betty's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary in 1981.

also at this time that I started playing for dances, first playing the tenor guitar and afterwards the guitar.

In 1937 my parents, Howard, and Leonard moved to S.W. 17-47-8 and Howard and Leonard went to school at Orbindale. Mother and Dad lived there until 1943 when they moved to Vancouver. They lived there until they died, Dad in February, 1951 and Mother in February, 1953.

In the early summer of 1940 I joined the army, serving in Newfoundland, England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Howard and Leonard came to Irma to go to high school in September 1941. Howard left school in November 1941 and joined the air force, where he served his enlisted time with North-West Air Command as an air traffic controller at Whitehorse, Watson Lake, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Yellowknife and Edmonton. Leonard stayed in school in Irma until 1943 when he moved to Vancouver. Leonard will be remembered in the community for his hockey playing while he lived in Irma. After moving to Vancouver he was employed for a short time with Boeing Aircraft and in 1943 joined the air force. He served as an air gunner and spent his time in India and Burma with an R.A.F. Squadron. In his later years in Burma his squadron was the unit chosen to supply General Wingate's Raiders, who operated behind the Japanese lines in what was then French Indo China.

After the war I went to Vancouver and lived with Mother and Dad for a year, working as a foreman for a building contractor. In November 1946 I was employed by Massey-Harris and sent to England where I worked until May 1949. When I came back to Canada I again went to Vancouver and lived with my parents until their passing and in April 1953 I came back to the Irma district and have lived here since then.

Howard was married in April, 1944 to Marjorie Blair. After the war they moved to Trail, British Columbia where they tried several ventures, finally getting work with Cominco. He worked for them until 1983 when he was put on early retirement. Howard and Marj still live at Rossland. They have two children, Carol born in 1946 and Wesley born in 1955. Carol is married with two children and they live in Medalline Falls in Washington, U.S.A. Wesley is married and has two children. They live in Rossland and he works with Cominco.

After Leonard was discharged he tried several things, first working in the gold mine for Cominco in Yellowknife where he also played hockey. Then he was moved to Trail and later came back to Edmonton to work for the 7-Up company. In 1949 he moved to Vancouver where he worked for the Army, Air Force and Navy Veterans' Association. He worked there until 1979 when he was retired. Leonard never married. He lives in Vancouver at the present time.

When I came back to the Irma district in 1953, I worked for Gar and Stanton Coultman and in 1955 bought section 15-47-8. I still worked for Coultmans until I struck out on my own in 1958. In November 1956 I married Betty Kirkman of Irma.

I, Betty Parsons, was born in Edmonton in 1923 and have lived in Irma almost ever since. My parents, Colin and Kate McLean, homesteaded N.W. 20-46-8 but lived on S.W. 32-46-8, the land his father James McLean

homesteaded, where I grew up. I attended Education Point and Irma schools. In 1942 I married Ray Locke who had come with his parents from Prince Edward Island via Calgary to live in Irma. At that time he was in the R.C.A.F. stationed at Dartmouth. We lived there for nine months until I came home to have my baby, Betty Rae, and Ray went to Newfoundland on submarine patrol duty. He was being posted back to Dartmouth for further duty. Dartmouth was fogged in and they were forced to land at Sydney. While landing, he had an acute heart attack and died instantly. I remained in Irma until Bob Kirkman came into my life. He was from Loughheed and clerked in the Irma Co-op store. He also had spent time in the air force. We were married in 1947 and lived in Edmonton until we came back to Irma to go into partnership with Dad as Kirkman and McLean General Store. We later installed a locker plant. After Dad died we sold the store to Larry Meier and went back to Edmonton. Bob worked for several firms including the Borden Milk Company as Alberta salesman. Bob was killed in a traffic accident in 1952 so the children and I returned to Irma to live with my mother. By this time our family consisted of Betty Rae, Bobbie Anne, Jim, Jean and Patti. In 1956 I married Wes Parsons.

Wes and I lived at Coultmans' until 1958 when we purchased the Colin McLean farm. Alan, Leonard and Tom were added to our family. In 1961 our house burned down and we again moved to Coultmans'. We moved back to the farm in 1963 after building a new house. The children attended Albert school for awhile and then Irma school, participating in hockey, figure skating, Cubs, basketball, C.G.I.T. and 4-H. This kept the car hot most of the time. For a number of years Wes and I played for dances at various halls. In 1978 we bought the Irma Hotel from Irene and Frank Drewicki operating it for two and one-half years.

Through the years Wes coached minor hockey, was on the Alberta Wheat Pool Advisory Committee and the Agricultural Service Board Advisory Committee. He was a director of the North Irma Community Association, District Deputy for Elks and Masonic Lodges and President of the Irma Royal Canadian Legion. I have also been active in community work. I was president of the Home and School Association and Irma Women's Institute, Constituency Convenor for W.I. and Honored Royal Lady of the O.O.R.P. three times. Now I share church duties as pianist with two other ladies.

In 1979 we built a house in Irma and have been living there since then. The following is a resumé of our children.

Betty Rae attended the University of Alberta for two years and then married Bill Gray of the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry. They have lived in various places in Canada and in Germany for four years. At present they are living in Calgary but plan to retire in the Irma district. They have two boys Mike and Jim.

Bobbie Anne, after finishing school, toured Europe for a year with two other girls. While there she met and married Wayne Bennett, also with the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry. On their return to Canada they were posted to Victoria and later to Wainwright where Wayne obtained his discharge. They still live there with

their two children, Randall and Tessa.

Jim, after leaving school joined the Bank of Montreal serving in several points in Alberta. In 1972 he married Geraldine Ell of Bow Island. He left the bank and went to Medicine Hat and then came to Irma to manage the Irma Hotel for a couple of years. He now has the Korner Video Shop. They have three children, Terry Lynn, René, and Christopher.

Jean, on completing high school, attended the University of Alberta for a year in Recreation Administration. Following this she went to S.A.I.T. in Calgary taking Radio and T.V. Arts. After graduating there, she went to Melfort and Regina, Saskatchewan, where she worked in radio stations. She came back to Edmonton to university for further training and then obtained a position with the Access television program. She married Gordon Cline and they have two youngsters, Benjy and Courtney.

Patti also went to university and when she became interested in teaching the handicapped she worked at various schools including the Winnifred Stewart School. In 1974 she married Lane Smith. Their interests still lean towards helping the handicapped. They are now at Lac La Biche where Lane is Regional Director for A.A.D.A.C. They have three youngsters - Jeff, Shaugnessy and Joshua.

Alan, since high school, attended Keano Vocational College at Fort McMurray. Subsequently he obtained work with Gillis Oil Field Maintenance. He now works for Petro Canada. He married Leona Prosser of Terrace, British Columbia. They have two girls - Lindsey and Carrie. They live on the original James McLean homestead. This makes the girls the fifth generation to have lived on this original James McLean homestead.

Leonard went to N.A.I.T. after high school and now is an estimator for Lakeland Insulations Ltd. He is an avid ball and hockey player, having played four years with the Wainwright Junior Bisons and was chosen by Ellerslie to go to Ontario to compete for the Canadian Junior Fast Ball Championship. He is married to Lana Prior of Irma.

Tom started working for Revelstoke after finishing high school and from there has gone to work for Lakeland Insulations as an insulator. He helps his dad put the crop in and take it off during his holidays.

THE PASZTOR FAMILY

Steve Pasztor came to Canada from Hungary in 1928. It was very hard for people from foreign countries. The language was a big problem, the ways of the country were different, as was the climate, which was a drawback in their work on the land. Steve had very little schooling, as they needed help in the fields. He went a few months when aged six, and a few months at the age of seven. This was in the winter when work was slack. At the early age of twelve, he was assigned to the job of the men, which was driving four oxen. They were different from the oxen of this country. They were like a cross between a Brahma Bull and a Texas Longhorn, as they had very long horns. Many a time on a scorching hot day when the flies were bad, oxen, plow and all would end up in the nearest water



Mrs. Helen Pasztor, son John, age four, 1932.

pond, with a very angry driver.

Steve first landed at Swift Current, Saskatchewan, and worked on a farm near Lancer. From there he came to Alberta and worked in the Peace River area around Spirit River and Pouce Coupe, on various jobs, later going to B.C. working along the way, also walking most of the way, as there were few roads and very few vehicles to be able to hitchhike. He worked on the section near Revelstoke, but decided farming was a better way of life, so came back to Alberta in 1929, riding the boxcars with hundreds of other men. It was the time of the depression and many a tired, hungry and sick man got off at every station, looking for a job of cutting wood or doing odd jobs, just to get a meal or a loaf of bread. Many sad stories he told of his trip back through the Rockies.

In 1929 he came to stay at the Jim Voros (Senior's) farm, as Jim's wife Julia was Steve's cousin, and he helped Jim for a while. Later he got a job at the Jim Clark farm near Hardisty (now the Bob Lukens farm).

In 1930 he went to work for Frank Weise near Irma. In 1932 he decided to get his own land, and rented the S.W. 1/4 22-44-9-W4, from Mr. Wyatt, also renting the S.W. 1/4 23-44-9-W4. In 1934 he sent for his wife Helen and son John. In 1938 their daughter Margaret Ann was born. In 1939 they decided to buy the land and they moved on to the S.W. 1/4 23-44-9-W4 and built a new home.

Like all the early settlers they had their losses, crop failures and setbacks, but managed to stay with it, so Steve decided to do trucking as a sideline, hauling coal from Forestburg.

During the winter months of 1937-38 he and his son John helped Mr. E. J. (Bud) Cotton, who was Chief Park Warden of Buffalo National Park 1909 to 1940 at Wainwright, haul feed for the buffalo.

John was nine years old when he came to Canada. He started school at Lewisville school in 1934, his teacher being Miss Gladys Siebrass at the time. The school closed in 1937 so he had to attend Silver Lane school (now the



Steve and Helen Pasztor, son John, daughter Margaret, 1943.



John and Betty Pasztor with their children, Carolyn and John Jr.

got rid of it all but the Hotel, which he shared with two other partners. They had it for nineteen years, selling it in 1970.

By this time the school buses were running and Margaret (John's sister) finished her education at the Irma school. She also took one year at Camrose Lutheran College.

Margaret married Robert Kromm of Calgary in 1959. They have three daughters, Beverly, Karen and Patti and live in Calgary.

After years of hard work, Steve decided to take a trip back to his homeland of Hungary, and in January, 1967 he went back to visit his sister. Mrs. Pasztor was unable to go. He spoke of the many changes, how his nephews were driving tractors over the fields where he used to drive the oxen. He was glad to get back to Canada, as the country here was a little more modern. He mentioned the time he was on the train to his village, and everyone was standing packed in quite tightly. A couple of women were beside him with big sacks on their backs, which had live geese in them. By the time he got to his village he could hardly stand the smell, also his clothes needed a good washing.

Steve and John Sr. farmed together until 1973 when tragedy struck. On March 27th, Steve was killed at the age of 70 when his truck went off the road near the George King farm on his way home from the Seed Cleaning Plant at Loughheed.

John Jr. attended the Irma School. He belonged to the Cubs and Scouts, and liked curling. He finished his Grade 12 and enrolled at the Vermilion Agricultural College in 1966, and graduated in Agricultural Technology in 1969. He married Eva Parson of Wainwright. They have three children, Shauna Leah, Jordan Steven and Kelsey Joy. John Sr. and John Jr. went into partnership, which is now Pasztor Farms. John Jr. stayed on the home place and built a new house. John is a member of the Kinsmen Club of Irma and has held the office of President. Eva belongs to the Order of The Royal Purple, and both enjoy curling.

Carolyn finished school in Irma. She belonged to

Merle King residence), both of which were three and a half miles away. Many times he walked as his dad needed the extra horse in the field. Later a bicycle was the main transportation in the summer. Silver Lane school closed and Margaret started school at Strawberry Plains school, which was four miles away. It was too far, so she boarded with the Jim Hearn family for three years. They also boarded the teachers, as they lived next to the school.

When the Second World War was declared and though classed as unfit for active duty, John took a welding course at the Chicago Vocational Training Corporation Ltd. in Edmonton in 1944, and helped to weld parts for airplanes. During those times Mrs. Pasztor helped pick rocks and roots on the breaking, besides milking cows and feeding pigs and chickens. They bought their first stove with the money they got from the cream cheques.

In the meantime, Steve bought a threshing machine and went out threshing in the district.

In July, 1947, John married Betty Vegso, from the White Cloud District north of Wainwright.

In 1948 Steve bought the Cecil Hotel in Hardisty and the family moved to town. The Dick Dawson family looked after the farm. That September a son, John Stephan, was born to John and Betty.

Steve sold the Cecil Hotel in 1951, and the family moved back to the farm. That May, John and Betty had a daughter, Carolyn Helen.

Steve bought into the Commercial Hotel in Edmonton that same year. He liked the City and got interested in several businesses of which he was shareholder. This included the Sahara Theatre in Westmount, a duplex in the Calder District, an apartment in Delton and some lots in the Hardisty District on which he had houses built. After realizing all this was too much of a headache, he

Mission Band, Messengers, Explorers and C.G.I.T. from which she graduated, Mrs. Inglis was her last C.G.I.T. teacher. She was also President of the Students' Union in Grade 12. She was crowned Carnival Queen in 1969 at the Irma Winter Carnival. She also enjoyed curling. She married and is now living in Kamloops with her son Kenneth Mark Cook.

Betty and John, both of whom were born in Hungary, decided to take a trip to their homeland. So in 1977 they went back to visit all the relatives. In 1979 John and Betty moved to the N.E.1/4 15-44-9-W4 on which they built a new home. This quarter at one time belonged to Frank Weise. Betty belongs to A.W.I. and John enjoys fishing and hunting. Helen (Grandma) as she is known by all her friends and neighbours, enjoys the winter months in Calgary with her daughter and family, and the summer months with her son John and family on the farm. She enjoys gardening, and still enjoys good health, at the age of 80 at time of writing. She has now taken up residence at Battle River Lodge in Wainwright.



Carolyn (Pasztor) Cook and son, Kenny, 1976.

LORRAINE (SMALLWOOD) PATRICK

Lorraine Smallwood cherishes many memories of her earlier years. These include Friday night movies in Keifer's Hall. Saturday night dances in Kinsella's new community hall and softball tournaments or picnics held at some nearby lake or the Battle River near Fabyan. She also enjoyed her C.G.I.T. and the 4-H Wheat Club under Ole Nissen's leadership.

Lorraine left Irma in 1957 to attend the University of Alberta. That year there were some twenty Irma students on Campus. During the summer of 1959, Lorraine and a friend worked as welfare teachers on Great Slave Lake. Skills learned on the farm were a great asset as their life there included cutting and splitting wood, living in a tentlike structure, using dog sleds as transportation, lighting oil lanterns, baking bread in tin cans, delivering a baby, as well as teaching school. A gentleman who was on a beaver survey passed through one day. Spotting "Irma" on her jacket, he spoke as a long time friend. Finally he introduced himself as Kate McLean's brother.



Four generations. Standing: John Sr. and John Jr., Mrs. Helen Pasztor holding great-granddaughter, Kelsey Joy Pasztor, 1981.



John, Eva, Shauna, and Jordon Pasztor.



Lorraine (Smallwood) Patrick and family: Bill, Gerry, Daryl, Lorraine.

The charming man was a great story teller and a legend in the North West Territories, an evening two school teachers will always remember. After graduating from university in 1961 Lorraine taught at A.E. Cross Junior High School in Calgary.

She married William Patrick, a Physical Education teacher at Western High School. Bill also did a great deal of coaching in football, basketball and track and field. Today he is Assistant Principal at Beaverbrook High School. Before his teaching career Bill was a Canadian Diver and won many trophies and ribbons. The ones he was most proud of was a Gold Medal he won for Canada at British Empire Games in 1954 and the Silver in Cardiff in 1958. He also dived in the Olympics in Perth in 1956. His name was entered in the Provincial Sports Hall of Fame in 1968.

Lorraine and Bill have two boys, Daryl Victor and Gerald Clifford. Both boys love sports with hockey and golf their favorites. During the summer the Patricks went fishing at Kaslo, British Columbia for several years. They also came to their grandparents in Irma where the boys loved the farm, the golf course and the Irma Pool Hall.

REUBEN WILLIAM PATTERSON

by Bill Patterson and C. Hardy

Reuben William (Rube) Patterson was born at Inverness, Quebec, a small community about forty miles south of Quebec City, on May 7th, 1885. He was of Irish, Scottish, Welsh parentage, the youngest in a family of six girls and three boys.

When he was only a year old, the family lost their farm home to fire, and they moved to another farm near Compton, Quebec, where he grew up. As a young man he worked in the Boston area for a few years, then spent a year firing on the C.P.R. between Kenora and Ignace, Ontario.

Leaving there in the late fall of 1907 he followed his brothers to Edmonton where he worked as a teamster. One notable experience he had was freighting a steam boiler to Athabasca landing for a H.B.C. river steamer. The flies, mosquitoes, muskeg and corduroy patches along the old landing trail made for an unforgettable trip.

In Edmonton he met and married Elizabeth Lucinda (Cindy) McCauley. She was a schoolteacher who had graduated with the first normal class in the Province of Alberta in 1905. Her first school was at Turnip Lake, now a part of northeast Edmonton, but at that time away out in the country.

With the start of the war in 1914 business in Edmonton was very slow so he entered into partnership with his brother-in-law, J.C. McLean, at the latter's farm at Irma. He drove down from Edmonton with two teams and wagons loaded with supplies, while my mother stayed behind. After the birth of my sister Marney in November of that year, Mother followed him and the two families spent the winter in the old homestead house on the McLean farm. It was crowded but lots of fun and good times.

Eventually a house was built for the Pattersons, just west of the McLean house. This was on the S.W.1/4 of Section 32 and the year was 1919. In 1916 a son was born.

He was named William McCauley Patterson, but I was soon known as Bill.

The Education School had been built in 1914. The first teacher, Mr. Costain, taught until the summer of 1917. Then Mrs. Patterson taught for one year. She also took over after the next teacher had become ill and died during the bad flu epidemic, 1918-1919. In 1921 a second daughter, Catherine, was born into this family.

In 1924 Reuben bought the east half of Section 31 and in 1933 he bought the west half of Section 31.

In the early years the McLean and Patterson partners raised horses and cattle. Grain farming was secondary at that time as they were surrounded by open range. To the west Section 31 was open, north Sections 5 and 8 were open, east it was 33, south 28 and 29, southwest and N.1/2 of 19 and all of 25. Their horse brand was a circle lazy M[Ⓢ] on the lower right hip. The cattle brand was J[Ⓢ] on the top right hip. Most of my early memories were somehow connected to horses or cattle.

Spring was always an interesting time as the colts had to be broken in for spring work. They were big four year olds, fresh from the range and had never been handled, except to have been branded as yearlings. By the time I was old enough to go to school I was in the corral helping to hold the rope that had several wraps around a sturdy snubbing post. The green colts had been front footed, thrown down and held while manes and tails were trimmed, then they were haltered and pulled or worked to the barn. Here they were tied up with a rope from the head around the manger and then to one front foot. In this way they soon learned their first lesson, that they could not pull away.



Reuben and Bill Patterson with little Brian.

Many stray horses roamed the open range and in 1925, while working for the municipality, Dad, Woody Clarke and others rounded up and impounded all the strays. As I recall, some eighty head were gathered; and by the brands they wore, some forty-five were claimed. The remainder were sold at auction. The first horse I called my own was an eight year old roan cayuse that Dad bought at the sale. She was halter broken and fairly quiet, but we had to

break her in.

Along with others he bought was a big, good-looking brown Clyde gelding about seven years old. Steve, as Dad named him, became a bit of a celebrity. He was completely wild, big and strong with a mean streak and a dislike for humans. With trip ropes, other quiet horses and a lot of hard work, Steve was forced to do his share, but he never gave in gracefully. During the second summer we owned him he was loaned to Goodales and spent it as part of an eight-horse hitch, breaking sod.

That fall a horse buyer dropped by in search of bush horses for the Quebec market. He saw Steve and immediately wanted him. Dad said no. The buyer persisted so Dad explained that Steve was not well enough broken for bush work. The buyer left but came back a few days later and tried again. Dad said no again. The price was raised and the offer repeated, and again the answer was no. The buyer, rather upset, remarked that since Dad had worked the horse, others could do the same. Dad was rather put out at this and replied that since he had warned the buyer and had been honest about the horse, then he would sell him. Next spring an angry buyer returned and demanded his money back. Dad just laughed and said "I told you what he was like." It seems the horse was stabled in a sales barn in Montreal. Not liking his surroundings, when a prospective buyer walked into the stall to inspect him, Steve went after him with his front feet. The terrified man ended up under the manger. Here he cowered for over an hour as the other men, fearful of the big brown, sought a way to safely remove him from the stall.

With all farm work done by horses, runaways were not uncommon. One fall day Dad was cutting grain on the old Costan farm when a rain squall blew up. He drove the binder up to the old house, and left the team a moment to get his coat. Just then Marney and I raced up on our horses on our way home from school. The startled team bolted just as Dad stepped out the door. As they raced away the binder jumped into gear. At the same time the grain wheel went in the open door of an old sheet metal hen house. As metal sheets flew everyway, the team ran harder and scattered the old hen house all across the field. Surprisingly, after they were caught, very little damage had been done except for the hen house and a few reel slats.

Another time he was out harrowing with six horses when one stepped on a can, or something, and jumped. As he tried to pull the team up, a line broke and he flipped over backwards off the seat and the team was gone. I was across the field when I saw the team coming and as they reached me, I managed to catch the outside horse and swing them in a circle. Dad appeared on the run, holding up his pants with one hand. His belt had broken when he fell off the harrow cart.

One spring he contracted to break eight big Clydes for Dave Craig. They were all wild and mean, some as old as nine years, and never handled. Getting a couple of them hooked up in a six horse team one afternoon, he was out working down new breaking. All went well, but he couldn't get them to stop long enough to unhitch. Supper time came and went but still he worked, thinking surely someone would come and help him. It was after seven

that evening before one of the hired men came looking for him. Together they got the team unhitched, and a very angry man came in to supper.

J.D. McLean, Uncle Colin, to Marney and me, also contributed to his share of excitement. The men milked a bunch of cows, and one old cow was named Roady. Dad milked her along with others, and Uncle Colin had his share. Roady was a kicker and she and Uncle Colin did not get along too well. One night Dad was away so Uncle Colin was doing all the milking. When it came Roady's turn, he tied a rope to one hind leg and pulling it back, tied the rope to the back wall of the barn. Marney and I were playing with some calves tied at the end of the barn, one broke loose and raced down the length of the barn and tripped over the rope. Roady just came apart and kicked Uncle Colin out in the gutter with her one free foot. We quietly slipped out the door and left.

One summer day Marney and I had led a calf up to the house to show it to Mother and Aunt Kate. We had just got to the back door of Aunt Kate's house when a rain storm blew up. As she opened the door, there was a crash of thunder and the calf was in the kitchen. Without stopping, it raced through into her front room, dragging Marney and me behind. It just happened she had just finished varnishing the front room floor and calf and all went slithering across it. Finally the front door was opened and the calf pushed out. There we held it till the rain stopped. The floor, meanwhile, was a total disaster.

In the winter of 1925 the men bought several milk cows at an auction sale about twelve miles northwest. Marney and I stayed home from school the next day to help drive them home. We and Dad rode horses up to the place and Uncle Colin drove a team and sleigh. It was a cold February day so at noon a fire was lit and we made a can of tea to go with lunch. Then it was discovered no cups were along. Uncle Colin had an idea and cut some straws from the greenfeed brought for the horses. We watched as he dipped one in the tea and took a tentative sip on it. The scalding tea hit the roof of his mouth and he almost exploded. We didn't dare laugh and almost choked trying to keep quiet.

In 1928 the partnership was dissolved and the two men farmed on their own from then on.

Reuben liked horses and was a good horseman. As a note of interest, he helped with the last round-up of wild horses in the Municipality of Battle River in 1925. It consisted of about seventy head of horses and I think he bought about thirty head and broke them.

In April of 1926 Cindie Patterson died very suddenly, of flu and pneumonia.

The partnership between Colin McLean and Reuben Patterson was split up in 1928 and the Patterson house was moved to the S.E. 1/4 of Section 31. This is where Wallace (Sonny) and his family live at present.

Reuben married Arlie Prosser in January, 1928. A son Wallace William was born in November, 1928 and a daughter Lois in June, 1931.

Reuben served on the local school board for many years and was also a trustee on the Wainwright School Division for a time. He was a typical farmer in that he could fix things on the farm and like everyone else made do, when the need arose.

He passed away in August of 1944 at the age of sixty-seven.

Now a bit about the family and where they are now:- Mrs. Arlie Patterson lives in Edmonton.

Marney married Arnold Hill; they had a son and daughter. Arnold passed away in 1963 and Marney has since married Gordon Cosford; they live at Ft. McMurray.

Bill married Mona Watson; they had two sons and two daughters. Bill and Mona are now living at Kamloops, B.C.

Catherine married Ivan Hardy and they had eight children - four girls and four boys. Catherine, Ivan and son Leslie are at present living at Creston, B.C.

Lois lives in Edmonton and teaches school at Namao Airbase.

Wallace lives on the family farm. He married Joy Tapper and they have a boy and a girl.

JIM AND DAVID PAUL

David was born in Nairnshire, Scotland in 1898. As a young man he joined the Scottish Highlanders and later emigrated to Canada in about 1927, working near Edmonton and Provost. He left the Irma area and moved to Trail, B.C. returning here about 1935. After working for other farmers he bought his own land in the early 1940's. This was the north half of 19-46-8W4. He farmed with his brother-in-law, John Dunbar, until he passed away in 1957.

Jim Paul was born in Scotland in 1902. He came to Canada with his brother, Dave in about 1927. After working for farmers in the Irma area he bought land just east of town. It was the south half of 26-45-9W4. In the late 1940's he moved to Ocean Falls, B.C. where he later retired. He passed away in 1978.



Jim Paul

SID AND IRENE PAVELY

by Josie Holt

Sid Pavely came to the Irma area in 1930 and worked for Chester Brown and Colin McLean. He married Irene Saville and they lived on the Charlie Anderson place. Two children were born to this union. Grant attended school at Saskatoon and Grand Centre. He married Marlene Savage from Raven, Alberta. They have two children, Rhonda and Spencer, and live at Blackfalds. Grant works at Deerhome in Red Deer and is active in

sports with boys' and girls' teams.

Gloria went to school at Grand Centre and Irma. She joined the Canadian Armed Forces after completing high school. At present she is stationed in Lahr, Germany, as a teletype operator in communications.

Irene drove the mail route north of Irma for a while.

Sid and Irene worked at farming, painting and the restaurant business. They are now retired and live in Red Deer.

GEORGE AND BILL PEDEL

by Bessie Creasy

George Pedel was born January 20, 1895 in Wendover, England and his cousin William George (Bill) Pedel was born in Southacton, London, England on July 31, 1899. When Bill was three weeks old his parents, George and Margaret Pedel, moved to Wendover, England where he grew up and attended school. After finishing school he joined the army and served in the First World War. He was in the Cold Stream Guards where he took part in Changing of the Guard at Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace. George served in the war also and was in Life Guards or horse cavalry. Upon returning from the war Bill went to work for the Railroad and George at the Post Office. They worked there until they decided to come to Canada in 1921.

Bill and George Pedel and Bill's sister Maud left Liverpool, England on February 25, 1921. It took seven days to come over on the boat, "The Empress of Britain". They landed at St. John, New Brunswick on the fourth of March. Maud took sick on the boat so Bill stayed with her and she was sent to Partridge Island for two weeks quarantine. George went on out west to Alberta. When Maud was released from quarantine she and Bill boarded the Colonial Coach and came west, arriving in Irma on March 25. They were met at the station by Ted Berreth, their brother-in-law. Nell had come out the year before and married Ted. Ted took them to the Ice Cream Parlor, run by Otto Bethge, which was situated in the space between what is now the Legion Hall and Hap's Trucking, and gave them warmer clothing to put on for the trip home in the cutter.

They lived with Nell and Ted until the fall of 1921 when they built a sod shack on N.W. 32-44-9 which both Bill and George filed on together. They went by the name of Pedel Brothers which was even on their cream cans. They lived in the sod shack until the spring of 1926. The shack leaked when it rained but was warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Every Sunday they had lots of company for dinner. Bill was the cook and George the dish washer. Some of the company they had were Jim Hearn, Pete Spring, Hughie Spikeman and Bill Dootson.

One hot summer evening George and Bill were lying outside the shack watching an electrical storm. Bill was just outside the door and George was a little further up the hill. A bolt of lightning seemed to strike the ground between the two of them. There was silence for awhile and then George whispered "Bill, are you all right?" Bill said "Yes, are you?" George said "Yes but it felt like someone hit me on the back of the head with a bag of sugar."

In the fall of 1925 they threshed on Norman Fluevog's threshing rig and earned quite a bit of money. With the money George earned he went home to England for the winter and found himself a bride. Bill stayed home and helped Ted Berreth build the little house which they still live in, on N.E. 32-44-9. When George came back in the spring of 1926 he brought Bill's parents, George and Margaret Pedel, and brother Bob back with him.

George's bride-to-be, Ada Kibble, and her daughter Mary, now Mrs. Bob Dempsey, came out in the fall of 1926. George and Ada were married on October 13, 1926. George and Ada lived in Bill's little house until their house was built in 1928 on N.W. 32-44-9. The carpenters that built George's house were Tommy Sanders, Bill Barber and Tommy's eldest son. It cost George two thousand dollars to build the house and the carpenters got six hundred dollars of that for their labor.

Bill's wife, Dorothy May Baalam (Dolly), was born on September 11, 1903 in Edgeware, England, the eldest daughter of Arthur John Baalam and Bessie Caroline (Haine). She has two sisters and two brothers, Ivy, Rose, Reg, and Albert. Her mother died when she was fourteen



Bill and Dolly Pedel, Bessie and Margaret.

and she looked after the family until her father remarried. Albert was only three months old at the time of their mother's death. They were raised by their stepmother but Dolly left home at an early age and went into service, which was keeping house and cooking for more well to do people. Bill and Dolly both knew Bill's Aunt Charlet, but they didn't know each other while in England. One day Bill came to visit Aunt Charlet while Dolly was there, but Dolly went out the back door as Bill came in the front. Bill and Dolly started corresponding after Bill came to Canada through Bill's sister Maud, as Dolly knew her. They corresponded for four years before Dolly came out. She arrived in Wainwright on May 21, 1931. She stayed with Nell and Ted Berreth for two weeks and then lived with Bill's parents and brother Bob until she and Bill were married in Edmonton on December 2, 1931.

Bill and Dolly had many rough years with low prices for grain and cattle. In 1929 or 30 cattle prices were the lowest, with cows selling at one cent a pound and calves selling for two cents a pound. Wheat sold for twenty-five cents a bushel and eggs for five cents a dozen. Lots of years if it hadn't been for the cream and egg cheques and later the family allowance cheque they would have had a pretty rough time. In 1933 Dolly had an appendix operation and Bill drove twenty head of steers, heifers and cows to Hardisty to sell to pay for it. He got one hundred and fifty dollars for the twenty head and that is what the operation cost. Bill took the money and paid Doctor McBride. The Doctor looked surprised and said, "Where did you get all that money from?" He gave Bill thirty-five dollars back and said, "If you are satisfied I am." Bill was sure glad to get that money back.

Bill's two daughters, Margaret and Bessie, helped with the farm work, driving the horses and tractor doing field work, threshing, fencing, hauling feed, harvesting and doing the chores until they in turn left home to work out and eventually get married. Arthur being four years younger gradually stepped into the work.

When George and Bill first came out here they helped build the fence around the Glenholm school. Berge and Knute Gulbraa, Don McKay and others that were pupils there at that time hung around where they were working as they liked to hear the funny way these Englishmen talked. Later both George and Bill served as trustees on the school board.

Bill loved gardening and grew a huge vegetable garden and an even larger potato garden every year. Dolly would be kept busy canning hundreds of quarts of vegetables, pickles, fruit, jams and jellies as Bill had fruit trees and raspberry, gooseberry, black and red currants as well as all the wild fruit. There were saskatoon picking days when the whole family went out and took their lunch and stayed until every pail was full, no ice cream pails then but the milk pails sure came in handy. Dolly was pardoned from that job as the children grew older. Bill just could not pass up a saskatoon or wild raspberry patch as he was always coming home with pails, bags, boxes or anything he could find, full. One day he took the team and went fencing. It started getting late and he had not come home. Everyone was watching for him and getting worried, and Mother was about to send one of us children to see what had happened to him when we heard the wagon coming. When he arrived we knew why he was so late. He had his staple pail, his tea jar, his lunch box, newspaper he had wrapped around his tea and even his hat full of wild raspberries, this was before we grew tame ones. He had found a good patch so after fencing he couldn't leave without every berry he could pick.

Bill also loves his flowers and for quite a few years had a lovely big flower garden with every flower imaginable and loads of roses. He has a way of getting tea roses to produce such huge blooms and has great luck bringing them through the winter.

George also grew a garden but on a much smaller scale and he also grew flowers and really liked his peonies. George loved to sing and for awhile sang in the quartet at the Sharon Lutheran Church which they faithfully attended. He also enjoyed playing his piano and in the



Bill Pedel with Bessie, Arthur, and Margaret, 1943.

evenings we would very often hear his music and singing come floating on the evening breeze over to our house.

Bill raised chickens when the children were small, the roosters for meat and the hens for eggs. For years roast chicken was our Christmas dinner. When they first got married they raised ducks and some turkeys. Berge Gulbraa bought the last of the ducks. The last turkey we owned was an old tom who chased the children away from the chick runs. He used to roost on the fence behind the barn and one morning Bill found him sitting on the fence but his head was gone. An owl had snapped it off. That was one turkey that wasn't missed, at least by one child.

Bill and Dolly have three children. Margaret Betty, born March 31, 1936, married Allan Connolly. They have six children, Jim, Susan, Sandra, Bob, Hughie and Shirley and four grandchildren. They live on an acreage southwest of Irma. Madeline (Bessie) born September 16, 1938, married Bryan Creasy June 16, 1958 and they live on a farm north of Fabyan. They have six children, Linda, Bill, Diana, Darlene, Adele and Todd and one grandchild. Arthur William was born on June 24, 1942 married Fay Adams, nee Barber. They have three children, Amanda, Tommy and Travis. Arthur and Fay live on N.W. 32-44-9, George Pedel's home quarter, which Arthur bought in 1965. They also farm Bill's place.

Bill at eighty-five years in 1984 still helps on the farm, driving the tractor, helping in the fields at seeding, haying and harvest. He also does the barn chores during the winter. Bill and Dolly still live in the little house on the farm. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on December 2, 1981.

George Pedel died on February 3, 1966. Ada Pedel, who was born on September 29, 1898 in England is living in the Lodge in Wainwright. George and Ada had two children. John was born on February 6, 1928 and died seventeen days before his fifth birthday with ruptured appendix. He died on his father's birthday in his father's arms. Patricia Georgenia was born July 13, 1935. She married Graham Johnston in September, 1956 and they have two daughters, Jody and Corie. They live in Ed-

monton.

Sister Maud lived with Nell and Ted Berreth for awhile and then worked for Mrs. Ina Knudson who ran the post office. She also worked for McDonalds, Don McKay's parents, Goodriches and at the Irma Hotel which burned down. She later married Elliff Hagan and they had one daughter, June, who is married to Ralph Scragg and lives at Spruce Grove. Maud passed away July 31, 1958 after surgery at the age of fifty-four.

Bill's father passed away in the fall of 1932 at the age of sixty-three and his mother passed away the winter of 1963 at the age of eighty-seven.

Bill's brother Bob went back to England. He served in the Second World War and was taken prisoner for two years. After his release he worked in England for awhile and then went to Australia where he worked on farms. He is retired and now lives in a nursing home in Australia. He has been back to visit only once in 1955. He was preparing to return for a visit but suffered a stroke and was not able to travel.

NILS PEDERSON FAMILY

From memory of Agnes Errikson

Nils and Bertha Pederson came to Canada from South Dakota, first settling in the Glenora District south of Viking, then moving north of Jarrow, with their four children. They bought S.E.-24-47-10-W4th formerly owned by William Bridgeman.



Melvin, Delores, Gordon, Tel and Nils Pederson on March 13th, 1983.

Nils and Bertha were married in South Dakota June 25th, 1919. Eight children were born into this family, three sets of twins, one twin boy died at birth. The children attended the Lynx school and it is presumed they walked a distance of two miles.

Nils made moonshine which seemed to be their main source of income and as one man said, at least it was good moonshine. When he was away working on the still, if any danger came such as a stranger, police, or anyone suspicious, Mrs. Pederson would hang a white cloth on the clothes line (which could be seen from where Nils was working as the house was on a very high hill).

They lived on this place for a few years, then moved to S.W. 25-47-10-W4th owned now by Cecil Lockhart, where they stayed until 1937. Mrs. Pederson and the children went to Hayward, Wisconsin. He stayed a month or two longer to settle up, sell his equipment and then he joined his family. They have lived there for the past thirty-five years.

Mrs. Pederson passed away and Nils is in a Lodge in Hayward. All the children are married and are living around where their parents lived.

MR. AND MRS. GAGE PENDLETON

Gage was raised on a farm South of Swift Current, Saskatchewan, where he learned his first mechanics and horse sense. His father had two McCormick-Deering tractors, Model A car, Chevrolet truck and horses to work two outfits in the fields. Summer holidays were spent learning the mechanics of overhauling equipment, forging in the blacksmith shop and working horses.

1940 found Gage in Vancouver pursuing the automotive trade with a General Motors dealership. The summer of 1942 was spent at Hythe, Alberta, in a Ford garage. During this time he met Eva Jenner whose parents farmed a mile and a half north of town.

Late fall, Gage returned to Swift Current and, after a brief visit, joined the Royal Canadian Air Force as aircrew. Eva went to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan to assist her aging grandparents.

In November, 1943, Gage and Eva were married in Calgary, and in May, 1944, Gage was on board the "Empress of Scotland", as a Wireless Air Gunner (WAG), headed for Great Britain. Eva returned to Moose Jaw to await his return to Canada.

The overseas career was varied; a Wireless Operator with a Bomber crew in Nottinghamshire; a transfer to Transport Command with which came a paratroop course at Ringway, Manchester. He then was reunited with his Captain and Navigator at Leicester to finish a conversion course on Glider Towing and dropping troops. He took part in the parachute drop at Arnhem, Holland, and then the crew was posted to India as replacements in the 435 Canadian Squadron based in Assam, flying into Burma and Northern China.

November, 1945, saw him reunited with Eva in Moose Jaw. The winter months were spent working for a General Motor's dealership. The next three years were spent at Swift Current farming and working at the automotive trade. It was here in July, 1947, a daughter, Ramona, was born. The next five years he served in the R.C.A.F. which he rejoined as a mechanic. Time with the Service in the Yukon found a son, Grant, born in July, 1949, at Whitehorse. Taking his discharge at Chatham, New Brunswick in 1952, the family motored to Edmonton and, through Joe Mac Holt, made a deal with Sophia Ostad for the Garage in Irma.

Leaving the children with Eva's parents at Hythe, they moved into the rear of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall's home until, with the help of Eldon Fenton, they had living quarters built over the garage. Tragedy struck in October, 1954, when all that was owned went up in a fire. The Pendletons' found themselves back with Mr. and



Gage and Eva Pendleton.

Mrs. Marshall and they also found out what it was to be part of a Community, where help came from everywhere. Residence was taken up in the Ben Sather house and business was re-opened in the garage that had formerly been operated by Floyd Fuder.

Eva's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jenner, came and spent the winter and by spring, with Harry's help, enough cement blocks had been made to build again on the original corner. A coffee shop was included in the business which Eva managed for a few years and was then leased out.

The acreage across the tracks was purchased from Joe Burton and, with V.L.A. help, a new home was built. This was later sold to Searle Grain Co., and is presently owned by the Alberta Wheat Pool.

In 1967 the Eugene Vallee farm, in the Passchendale district was purchased. The Pendletons' lived in the Eugene Meyers farm home, (Arnold Place), while they built a new home on the farm, but Eva did not move into it as it was here in January 1969 that she passed away from a heart attack. In 1967 a nephew, Reginald Pendleton, from Swift Current joined the household. Reg's stay was short as in August 1969, he was involved in a fatal car accident on Highway 14 just east of Irma.

The children, Ramona and Grant, completed schooling in Irma, Ramona going on to graduate in September, 1968, from the Alberta Hospital, as a Psychiatric nurse. After graduation, in the company of Bobby Ann Kirkman of Irma, and Shirley Ponto of Galahad, she left for an extended European working tour. She returned in January, 1969, for her mother's funeral and then remained with her father, taking a nursing position in the Wainwright Hospital. In May she decided to return to Germany to rejoin the girls and continue their European tour.

In September, 1969, she was united in marriage with Rejean Levesque, a Canadian soldier, stationed in Germany, whose hometown was Chateaugay, Quebec. Ramona and Reg, with their two children, Daniel and Celyne, reside in the Permanent Married Quarters on the



Eva Pendleton, Mrs. Marshall, Ramona Pendleton and Grant.

Namao air base in Edmonton. Ramona is continuing her career in nursing at the Alberta Hospital and Reg is a technician with the Dental Corp.

Grant left Irma High School for the first quarter at N.A.I.T., then decided to go to work on the oil rigs. After a few months he started a Power Line Electrician apprenticeship with Ace Construction. During this time, in September, 1971, at Viking, Alberta, he was united in marriage with Dianna Ronjom of Jarrow. Living in a trailer home, they moved around Alberta. After completing his apprenticeship, they settled in Wainwright where he took over a distribution crew. They are blessed with two girls, Sherry, born in Edmonton, and Tracy, born in Wainwright. The family moved onto the farm in the Passchendale district in 1975.

In May 1971, in Edmonton, Gage was united in marriage with Lucy Marshall who, as a girl was raised on a quarter section adjoining the Pendleton farm.

Gage presently works for The City of Edmonton as an Administrator with the Mobile Equipment Services Branch.

With a home in the city and on the farm as well, they enjoy the best of two worlds.

PETERSON, ARTHUR ELWOOD AND JENNIE

written by daughter Grace

My father, Arthur Peterson, was born in 1876 in Russel, Iowa, and in a few years the family moved to Bancroft, Nebraska. His father had a nursery there with many flowers, fruit trees and shrubs. It was a large acreage so they had a few animals and about forty hives of bees. When my dad grew up, he went to New Orleans to work in the rice fields for awhile, but that just wasn't his kind of work, so he returned to Bancroft. He joined a baseball team and entered into the social affairs of the



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Peterson.

community. My mother, Jennie Olson, was teaching in a school called Liberty. A box social was held there and my dad bought the little school marm's box and a romance began.

In 1902, my grandfather decided to help his five sons, so he went to Alberta. He was very impressed, calling it "the Land of Promise" and so filed on homesteads for his sons and two of his brothers near Carstairs. They sold their home in Nebraska and in the Spring of 1903, they arrived in Didsbury with their settlers' effects and started at once to improve upon the homesteads.

By this time my dad was engaged to his sweetheart in Nebraska, but didn't want her to come to Alberta until he had built a house of lumber. In 1907 the cottage was completed so my mother left her own people in Nebraska and they were married in the sod house with the Peterson families and friends present. Mother said the neighbors shivareed them that night with guns and so much noise she was very frightened of the "wild and wooly west".

I was born September 2, 1908, a midwife and Grandma Peterson were there. We were twenty-two miles from a doctor and, as there were complications, Uncle Warren, better known as Slim Peterson made a fast trip with the team and buggy and the Doctor arrived in time to save our lives. Grandma was certain I wasn't alive and after the doctor had revived me she exclaimed "Saved by the grace of God", and that's how I got my name.

Three years later my brother Frank was born and later my sister Anna was born, January 17, 1914. In 1915 we rented our home and land at Didsbury for one year and moved to Irma, Alberta. My father worked in the butcher shop for his brother Slim Peterson. I attended school in Irma. There were some new houses built where the Irma Motel is now. People called it "Spud Alley" for some reason and our next door neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. P.E. Jones. The pioneers came to Alberta near Didsbury



Frank, Arthur, Jennie, Grace, Arthur, Jack and Anne.

so fast to take up homesteads, there was no land to buy near us, so dad sold the homestead and bought a section of land 6 miles northwest of Irma. The house he built is still standing and Myron Myers lives there now.

My brother Frank and I started school in Jarrow as we were in that district but weren't very happy attending that school and as Ross and Jarrow were both four and one half miles from home, Dad transferred us to the Ross district. We rode horseback but sometimes took the cutter or buggy.

Two more brothers were born at Irma, Jack and Arthur, so there was lots of work to do. I remember when I was nine years old, getting the cows on horseback. There was open land all around our section and other cattle pastured on the open range. Sometimes, I would see eleven coyotes in a bunch. There was a big hill we called Badger Hill. There were lots of badgers peaking out of their holes. Sometimes I could spot our cattle from this hill. One evening a storm came up, the sky was so dark, the thunder and lightning so bad, I was terrified. We had been to Ross school to a revival meeting and the minister had said the world was coming to an end that year. I was sure this was it! However, it didn't happen that time. There also was an old Indian house about a mile from home I was sure was haunted too! Enough of my childhood memories.

There were happy memories too. We had a Chautauqua every fall combined with the fair. We would go early in the morning with entries for the fair, and take a picnic dinner. Mother and Mrs. Jack Rae had quite a competition for their homemade bread. I remember the wagon would be loaded with our family of seven. It always lasted three days. Then there was the Christmas concerts at the different schools and the visits of our good neighbors, the Nashes, Gulbraas, Archibalds and many others.

We lived there until 1919. Times were pretty bad. It seemed our crops were either hailed out, frozen or not enough moisture, so we sold the farm and as Mother

wanted to go back to Nebraska to see her people, we bought a farm in Walthill and lived there for seven years. I completed my grade twelve and took a beauty course.

In 1927, we once more returned to Irma. This time we bought a farm one and one half miles west of Irma next to Carl Larsons. Besides farming, my dad helped his father Frank Peterson in the flower gardens. I loved to help make flower arrangements for weddings, funerals and business was good as there were no florist shops for miles around.

In 1929, my dad and mother with a display of products from the Wainwright constituency went to the Edmonton Fair. This was the first time Wainwright had been represented and I'm sure it was a big success.

My brother Frank worked for John Erickson for awhile, and Anna, Jack and Arthur attended school in Irma. I went to Heath to help my Aunt Edith Bouck in the fall, cooking for threshers and helping with the care of her twin babies, Allan and Amy. In the spring, I bought a dresser, table and other sundries and started the first beauty parlor in Irma. This was above the old Coop Store. In the late twenties, it wasn't a paying proposition.

My parents were actively involved in the United Church in Irma. Dad was the Sunday school superintendent for awhile and was always interested in the affairs of the community. About 1935, they sold the farm and bought an acreage from Grandpa Peterson, and moved to Irma (where Minchau's live now). Dad did stucco and cement work. Some Irma homes still have the trees and flowers he planted in their yards.

In 1942, my dad passed away and my mother died in 1966. They are both laid to rest in the Irma cemetery. My sister Anna and Bill live in Calgary, brother Frank and Pearl at Courtney B.C., brother Jack and Rosemary in Creston, B.C. and brother Arthur and Belle at Port Hardy, B.C. I am at present making my home at the Chacutenah Manor in Irma.

Anna Ramsay passed away in 1984.

FRANK PETERSON SR.

by Granddaughter Grace Archibald

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Peterson were pioneer settlers of Alberta and he and his five sons and two brothers filed on homesteads twenty-two miles from Didsbury in 1903. Their first home was a sod house of four good-sized rooms all with bay windows and was plastered with adobe clay and then papered. They had linoleum on the floors. There were seven sod houses in the neighborhood so for awhile it was called Sodville.

The Petersons came from Bancroft, Nebraska and had a large nursery there so brought many specimens of plants with them to Alberta. These grew and flourished under Mr. Peterson's "green thumb".

Their son Warren, better known as "Slim", Peterson was first to sell his homestead and come to Irma. He built a butcher shop with Bill Stuart his brother-in-law as his partner. As there was no land to buy near their homesteads in the south country, the other brothers, Arthur, Howard and Vernon came to Irma and bought farms in the district. In 1919 Mr. and Mrs. Peterson came to Irma, bought an acreage, part of NE-28-45-9 and later



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Peterson.



Howard, Arthur, Warren, Vernon, and Charlie Peterson.

bought block eleven. He ordered three thousand peonies from Leiden Holland to plant there, and in the summer these big feathery flowers of all shades of red, pink and white were a beautiful sight to behold.

In 1927 Mr. Peterson's son Arthur and family moved to Irma from Nebraska where they had resided for seven years. He assisted his father in the nursery business and many orders were filled for the people in the surrounding towns.

The grandchildren loved to dig up and help sort the half million gladiolus bulbs and assist in making flower arrangements for weddings, funerals etc. as there were few florist shops at that time.

Mr. Peterson's favorite flowers were lilies, peonies, bleeding hearts, gladiolia and roses. He loved to experiment and originated the "Alberta Lily" by crossing the Elegant Lily with the wild prairie lily and a hardy rose with one of his pink roses and our Alberta rose. He took time to show friends and visitors around the gardens and no one left without a bouquet of beautiful flowers and a cup of coffee.

After the Province of Alberta secured its provincial status, Mr. Peterson became connected with the government and always boasted about this province as if he were a travelling guide-post for Alberta. He devoted a lot of his time and efforts to gather many specimens of grain, vegetables, etc. to prepare and mount them for exhibits in Alberta, across Canada and in American fairs.

On March 12, 1928 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Peterson celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. A large crowd gathered in the Irma United Church to honor them. Among the many letters of congratulations was one from the Honorable George Hoadley, Minister of Agriculture. He expressed appreciation for the splendid work Mr. Peterson had done in placing before the world the wonderful products of the Province of Alberta.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson were active members of the

Irma United Church and for many years he was superintendent of the Sunday school.

Besides their five sons Arthur, Howard, Warren, Vernon and Charlie they were blessed with two daughters Cora (Mrs. Bert Stimson) and Edith (Mrs. Harry Bouch) also Wilbur and Anetta who died in infancy.

Mr. Frank Peterson passed away in 1935 and Mrs. Peterson on February 16, 1948 at the age of ninety-one years. In fact all the above mentioned have gone to their eternal home. All we have is fond memories of our ancestors.

The Irma gardens and those in surrounding towns still have some beautiful flowers from the Peterson and Sons perennial gardens.

Today Mr. Lawrence Savage owns the homeplace and many more residences have been built on the property.

HOWARD PETERSON FAMILY

by Clayton Peterson

Irma, as we saw it when the Peterson clan sold their homesteads east of Carstairs, moved here and settled on various farms in the Irma district. Grandpa and Grandma Peterson had come and bought land on the west side of town and started a nursery and flower gardens. My dad bought a half section of C.P.R. land four and one-half miles northwest of town in the Ross school district.

Dad married Ina Johnson on December 10th, 1903. We see them here with their family, Leona, Darrel and Nelwin who were born in the old sod house on the homestead. By the time I came along eight years later than Nelwin, they had built a frame house and that's where I entered the world. This is our house being built on the farm and was our home till 1944 when the folks sold out and retired to Edmonton - we lived in a frame building in the background till the house was finished and we moved in. The old building was later turned into part of the barn and grain bins.

Our mode of transportation for a good many years - the democrat was nice and even had upholstered seats. One of the highlights was the day Mother packed a picnic dinner and we drove up to the Buffalo stampede. The big attraction was that an airplane would come and a man would jump out and come down in a parachute. We were not disappointed, as the plane came and sure enough a



Howard Peterson's house.

man did jump out and landed safely near our area. At that time they packed the chutes in paper. I'm sure they used six editions of the Edmonton Bulletin as paper was flying all over. It was a real thrill and little did we know then that it soon would become a common way of travel.

Ross school kids in 1927, I think Alma Miles was our teacher at the time. We always boarded the teacher and during the hard times it was almost all our source of income besides the cream cheques - I think she paid fifteen dollars for board. We milked a lot of cows and cream was around ninety cents for a five gallon can.

In those years community spirit was great and we all seemed in the same boat, as we helped each other in the neighborhood and also did a lot of visiting. Mother did a lot of home care to the sick in the area and helped when new babies arrived. Dr. McGregor was our doctor in Irma at the time and he went to many places in a buggy or sleigh.

As the years went by Leona quit high school and got a job in the Irma boardinghouse. One time she brought home some towels to wash. I believe this was the way we caught the itch. Anyway the home treatment was a mixture of sulphur tar, and each night Mom would apply the mixture to us. Many a laugh we had as we were sure a black looking bunch. I don't know how she managed to keep things clean. Then a doctor from Wainwright gave us an ointment which soon cleared it up.

Leona married Sid Bouch on March 10th, 1928. The wedding was held in our house and Grandpa and Grandma Peterson stood up with them as it was also their golden wedding anniversary. I remember the community gave them a fifty dollar piece at a special event that was held in the United Church in Irma. I think they used this to go to California to visit their son, Uncle Charlie. I don't think Mom was very happy to see her only daughter leave home. Sid had a farm sixteen miles east of Carstairs and that's where they started out married life together. Two boys were born to them, Harold, who now lives in Red Deer and Gordon, who lives at Didsbury. Darrel finished high school and went to Camrose Normal

School and became a teacher. His first school was Batt, a country school somewhere about fifteen miles northwest of Irma. He later taught school at Viking and in the Peace River area. He taught at Taber where he retired, and passed away on March 22nd, 1982.

On August 19th, 1928 Darrel married Borgal Lovig, who was also an Irma district girl. To them came four children; Doreen who now lives at New Norway, Elwood lives at Courtney, B.C., Doris lives in Wetaskiwin and Ardith is in Edmonton. They all are married and have families of their own.

Nelwin loved the farm and he bought a quarter section of Hudson Bay land just south of ours. On June 30th, 1933 he married Mary Nichols from Islay, who was teaching Ross School. To them came three boys, Nate who lives in England, Clint and Dale live in Edmonton. Here we see Nelwin driving a twelve horse team on a breaking plow. He loved to drive horses and even though he was never in the best of health, was the pluckiest one of all us kids. During the war he sold his farm, worked in Edmonton for a while and then moved to Leduc where he was the rural mailman for a good many years. He passed away September 6th, 1977. Mary still lives there.



Howard and Ina Peterson, Leona, Darrel, Nelwin and Clayton.

I, Clayton (the writer of this), took all my schooling at Ross and Irma. I quit school in grade ten and helped on the farm. In 1941 I went to Edmonton and joined the army, but my age group was not called up so I stayed and worked at Aircraft Repair. On October 9th, 1943 I married Frances Aide who comes from Hardisty. Then in 1946 we moved here to Ponoka where I took the nursing course and became a registered nurse and worked at the mental hospital for thirty-two years. I retired in 1978.

We have six children in our family. Louis is a teacher and teaches in Calgary, but lives in Okatoks. Leigh is a nursing aide and works part time at the General Hospital. They live here in Ponoka. Joe lives in Calgary, is a business accountant and works for an oil firm there. Patti is a teacher. She teaches in Tofield where they live. Kathleen is a business secretary, lives in Calgary and works for an oil firm. Ken is still at home and goes to Red Deer College.

The Petersons were a close group of relatives and I have fond memories of Irma and the good times we had

there, going to each other's places for Christmas and New Years. At dances sometimes we formed a group of cousins - at times seven or more and had a lot of fun. At one of the Irma sports days we formed an all cousin softball team. The only one that wasn't related was a boy who pitched for us. We didn't win but we had fun.

No one had much money in those days and things were not all rosy. One time Dad was cranking a neighbor's tractor to thresh. The crank came off, hit him and broke his ankle. He was laid up for quite some time that winter. That's when we realized how important he was at working the farm.

One time when we were in to Grandma's for dinner a bad hailstorm came up in the afternoon. We stayed till the rain stopped and started out for home. About one-half mile from home we could see the house. The curtains were shredded and flying out the windows. I don't remember how many windows were broken but we had no crop at all that year. I don't know how we managed but the folks got us through the winter some way.

In closing, Irma and the community are number one to us and we carry fond memories of it. Each year now we have the Peterson reunion. This was at Irma this year. Things have surely changed but I know the community spirit still exists there.

NELWIN PETERSON FAMILY

by Mary Peterson

I became a member of the Peterson family in the spring of 1933 when Nelwin and I were married. That fall, after the crops were harvested, we left to spend the winter in Arizona, hoping that the change of climate would improve his health. When our son, Nate arrived in November, 1934, we moved into our own home just one-half mile south of his dad's farm.

Dad Peterson was one of the finest gentlemen one could meet, always so cheery and helpful with no ill-will towards anyone. And what would I have done without Mom Peterson, who taught me all I needed to know

about housekeeping, shared with me her garden produce and was an angel of mercy when our sons were ill, I do not know! I can well remember how for a short time Nelwin hauled down her washtub, boiler, washboard, and irons for me to use.

By the fall of 1936 we had moved our little house back on his dad's quarter as we could not find a well on our own place. Then Nelwin bought the Don Nichol farm and once again we settled elsewhere. He and his dad always farmed together and many a time I gathered up babies, ironing, sewing, etc. and went with him to his folks for the day. Money was indeed scarce during those early years but good times we did have with friends and relatives, visiting back and forth. Once George and Marje Fischer and family came to spend the day with us and didn't leave for home until two a.m. The reason? He insisted on winning just one game of table tennis. Naturally we were invited to their home for a chicken dinner - Ah that chicken! None of us ever forgot it. And many a card game we had with Jimmy and Mary Kennedy. For some queer reason the men usually won.

Our babies (Clinton had arrived in 1936) survived all those frosty nights when water in the pails turned to ice and there was no coal to stoke the heater. One Christmas we travelled to my dad's home (a distance of approximately fifty miles) in one of those closed-in cutters with a heater in it to supply warmth. Now that was a luxury! Saturday evenings were usually a time for weekly shopping in Irma. My favorite retreat was a visit to Uncle Art and Aunt Jennie Peterson's where I enjoyed a cup of tea and often a piece or two of her good brown bread, the likes of which no one else's equalled.

In the spring of 1941 we moved to Edmonton, planning to return to Irma later if Nelwin's health improved, but Dad Peterson decided to sell his farm so we did likewise. Dale was born in 1948 in Edmonton. After renting some land near Millet for a few years we moved to Leduc in 1950 where Nelwin delivered mail on three rural routes until his retirement in September of 1973. He passed away in 1977.

I am still at home in Leduc and fortunate to have Clint with his wife, Dodie and children, Linda, Lyle and Karyn; Dale with his wife, Barbara and son Mark, nearby in Edmonton. Nate with his wife, Barbara and sons, Dean and Terry live in London, England.

PETERSON, WARREN (SLIM)

written by Grace Archibald

Warren, or "Slim" Peterson as he was known to his Irma friends, was born at Bancroft, Nebraska and in 1903 he came to Alberta to live on the homestead that his father, Frank Peterson had filed for him.

He married Barbara Stuart and they had three children: Charlie, Lennie, and Maida.

His brother-in-law, Bill Stuart, persuaded Slim Peterson to sell the homestead and come to Irma to be his partner in the butcher shop business. It was a successful venture. There were no trucks to haul cattle to the stockyards so they had to go to their destination by freight train. Slim Peterson had to go along and look after them, sometimes there would be as many as eight car loads to



Nelwin and Mary Peterson in Victoria about 1977.



Warren and Barbara Peterson, Charles, Lennie, and Maida.

go to Winnipeg, Chicago, or Edmonton. On January 3, 1919, he left here with a freight car containing eleven head of cattle and fifty hogs. The crew on the freight train made a miss in switching the car out of the siding and struck it on one corner, turning it over the bank, killing several hogs, and giving the cattle such a scare that one was all they could catch. So, only one steer and thirty-seven hogs made it to the packing plant that time.

In 1919, Stuart and Peterson dissolved partnership and C.P. Larson bought the butcher shop. Slim Peterson had a new house built which is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Sid Johnston. He was known for his sense of humour, and did a lot of community work, helping to organize an Irma band. Baseball was his favorite sport.

In 1923, he had a sale and decided that he should move to California. Slim and his friend Roy Loss arrived in Los Angeles in their Ford cars, after being on the road sixteen days.

The family lived there and prospered. Their daughter Maida died shortly after of spinal meningitis and Charlie and Lennie married and went their separate ways. After his wife Barbara died, Warren left for Hawaii. There he and his son Charlie built underwater cement tunnel roadways. Warren met an untimely death while working in these tunnels. His remaining families reside in U.S.A.



Slim and Barbara Peterson.

KATHY PHILLIPS (BARSS)

I am the fourth daughter of John and Doris Barss married to Gary Phillips of Seaforth, Ontario. We have two young children, Carmen and Corie. Currently we are living in Wainwright where Gary is employed with the Camp Wainwright Fire Department.

Gary plays hockey with the Irma Aces and has for the past few years. We both enjoy the friendliness and hospitality of the Irma Community.

ART AND BETTY PIERCE FAMILY

Art moved to Irma in 1939 from Edgerton with Stan and his mother where she worked for Bob Stone (cousin of Art's dad) in the Bakery on main street in Irma, next door to Steve Hlynka's Shoe Shop.

In 1942 they moved to Semans, Saskatchewan where they lived for two years, before moving back to Irma. Art went out to work for Jake Meyer at the age of fourteen, for the next two years. When Jake sold out Art went to work for Lawrence Savage and worked for different farmers in the Orbindale district.

Art and I met when he was working for Savages. The next few years a familiar sight was Art and roan saddlehorse, headed for Mom and Dad's home. Dad played the violin in Coultmans orchestra, so we were involved in the old school dances, concerts, card games on numerous occasions. These left us with fond memories and a host of good friends.



Art and Betty's family taken November 6th, 1982 at Valerie and Bradley's wedding. Left to Right: Bradley, Brent, Betty, Art, Leigh, David, Valerie, Nola, Glenda and Lily.

We were married November 14th, 1952 and lived in a little white house in Dad's yard for four years. Art decided to go farming on his own and rented Erling Larson's farm. When Erling's boys wanted to farm, we had a struggle to gather a down payment to buy Chester Brown's farm, as we had been hauled out and dried out for four years.

Before we were married we had saved enough to buy a

registered Holstein calf. Adding to that one we managed to build a very good herd of cattle. Due to government quotas and closing of creameries, we decided to sell the Holsteins in 1974. With a mixture of bills and cream cheques, we managed to raise a family of four boys and one girl.

Leigh married Glenda Robinson of Stavely, Alberta, and they have two children, Brett and Justin, and farm with us. David married Lily Lysons of Vermilion and they have one child, Tara. They live in Mannville. David is going to take his third year in plumbing. Bradley married Valerie Bell of Irma. They live in Irma and Brad helps with the farm and works for the M.D. Brent graduated from the University of Alberta as a band teacher and is presently employed in Camrose. Nola, after graduating from High School, took a hairdressing course and is living in Irma, employed at the Irma Hotel and does hairdressing too.

ANDREW PIOKER

by Steve Pioker

Andrew Pioker immigrated to Canada from his native land, Yugoslavia, in 1926. He worked as a farm laborer in Saskatchewan for a short time after which he came to Wainwright, Alberta. Here he worked on the George Smith ranch of sheep and cattle for about a year. He then came to Irma and started work with Henry and Robert Kasten. This proved to be a more permanent position as with some help from his employers he purchased a C.P.R. quarter of raw land nearby. When time would permit he commenced to build a small house. He was a very hard worker and loved this new found land, the freedom, the opportunities, etc., so with great determination he was eager to face the challenge of bringing out his family.

In September, 1929, Mrs. Elizabeth Pioker and two sons, Joseph, nine, and Steve, six, crossed the wide blue waters and joined Dad in the newly built two room dwelling. Dad continued working for the Kasten brothers and gradually accumulated a little equipment to start improving this quarter of raw land. The work was hard as the brush clearing was done by hand, piled and burned. The virgin sod was turned with a breaking walking plow and horses. My mother, I recall, was very homesick and unhappy with this new adventure at first, but not having any choice she gradually applied herself to the task at hand. My brother Joe and I had to adjust to hardships also. Number one was to learn the English language; then go to Glenholm school three and one-half miles as the crow flies. In the summer when 'Old Nellie', the school horse was not needed in the field, she was hitched to the buggy and hauled us to school. For the days when old Nellie wasn't available it was just plain footwork. In the winter it was riding double on old Nellie with a small bag of oats for her dinner.

Our little two room house Dad built was quite crowded, but it became quite apparent that it would soon be more crowded. In May, 1933, Andy Junior was born, only to be followed by Roy in September, 1934. Mother was not hospitalized with either birth, only a house call by Dr. Greenberg, but, surprisingly, all survived.



Mr. and Mrs. Andy Pioker.

Well to add to all this were the dirty thirties with grain, beef, hogs, etc. all but worthless. However, by living off the land survival was possible. Of course there was very little money for anything else. Come 1940, brother Joe and I were on our own so Dad decided to try his luck at something different. He rented the farm, had an auction sale and set out for Hamilton, Ontario, with now only mother and their two small boys to provide for. Dad found work in a steel plant and did quite well, but was never really happy. He missed the good old west, friends and good neighbors. In spite of all this he stuck it out till the summer of 1943, when they moved back west. They came right back to that little house on the C.P.R. again where they spent the winter. In the spring of 1944, he had a chance to purchase a good half section of land with buildings two and one-half miles southwest of Fabyan. At a fair price and a small down payment the deal was made. This then was their new home and livelihood until Dad found farming somewhat difficult with Andy and Roy gone and all the work left to him.

In the fall of 1963 Mom and Dad sold their farm and moved into Wainwright where they lived till their passing. Dad having worked hard all his life remained active to within a year and a half of passing. My dad was of quiet nature and I believe well respected by all who knew him. He passed away March 30th, 1976 at the age of seventy-eight years. My mother was very dedicated to her family and grandchildren. She was an ardent gardener, loved flowers and did a lot of crocheting and knitting. Mom passed away February 12th, 1979 at the age of seventy-five years.

The late Mr. and Mrs. A. Pioker's children still living are: Joseph of Edmonton - retired; Steve of Wainwright - semi-retired; Andy of Wainwright - Department of National Defence; Roy of Wainwright - semi-retired.

There can be no rainbow without a cloud and a storm.

STEVE PIOKER FAMILY

by Steve Pioker

I was born in Yugoslavia December, 1922 and came to Canada in September, 1929. I was raised on a small farm three and one-half miles southwest of Irma. Times were very difficult during those years so as soon as I was able to go on my own I did. In 1940 I went down east and found work in Hamilton, Ontario, where in February, 1943 I joined the army for active service. I served overseas in England, Italy, Holland and Germany for forty months. After my discharge in June, 1946 I helped out on my father's farm southwest of Fabyan, Alberta.

That same fall I met Miss Awilda Fitzpatrick and we were married in March, 1947. With the help of Veterans' Land Act I was able to purchase a half section of land with buildings, so my wife and I with great determination and hope, settled in to farming. The farm was that of Louie Hagar two miles west and one and one-half miles north of Irma. The years to follow were real tough, the land was rough, stoney, not too much broken, so more brush had to be cleared and the sod turned.

Well, somehow we managed and lived there for twenty-two years, amongst a fine bunch of community minded Irma people. During those years my wife and I were blessed with five lovely healthy children and the farm seemed to be a great place to raise them.

In the spring of 1969 we sold our farm to Blaine Copeland. We moved to Wainwright where we are still living. I was employed with North West Utilities in Irma for two summers, after which I got into the Bottle Depot business. This business, being small at first, my wife and youngest children looked after it, while I went driving taxi and school bus. The business grew and soon it turned out to be a full time project for us all.

In the summer of 1979 this business was sold and I semi-retired to driving school bus again, which I'm still doing. Our children are all married and living in the Wainwright area.

POMEROY FAMILY

Mel Pomeroy was born in Indian Head, Saskatchewan and spent his early years in Pense and Regina. He is second oldest in a family of eleven. He joined the army and was married and raised a family of four: Myron, Nancy, Marjie and Alan. He retired from the army after twenty-five years of service. Jean, his wife, passed away in 1971.

Linda (Prosser) Pomeroy was born in Wainwright, Alberta. She lived in Irma and received twelve years of schooling here in the Irma School. After graduating she took Floral Design in Edmonton. Following this she worked for A.G.T. for five years in Edmonton and Wainwright. After a trip to Australia she started working for the Department of National Defence as a switchboard operator at Greisbach Barracks, Edmonton. Here she met Mel and they were married on October 6, 1973. They lived in Edmonton until Mel retired and they started the Irma Flowers Shop on Main Street in the building formerly owned by William Masson. Then they bought the

Ross McFarland house, where they are now living.

In 1978, Melany Marlyn Pomeroy was born in the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton the day after her mother had fallen on the street in Irma and broke her arm. This little redhead is now attending school in Irma.

Mel worked for Prior Farms and is active in community affairs. He enjoys curling, golfing and is Equipment Manager for the Irma Aces. (the Senior Hockey Team) He is a member of Legion, Masons, and is at present Exalted Ruler of the Irma Elks.

Linda enjoys curling, teaching figure skating and is active in United Church Sunday School. She is president of the Dancing Club and also a member of O.O.R.P. The Pomeroy family enjoy watching both hockey and softball and are proud to call Irma their home.

Mel Pomeroy is distantly related to the Reverend Pomeroy who was the minister at Irma in early times.

THE POND FAMILY HISTORY

We're all happy that Sigurd Fluevog showed Pon Toug the right road to Irma. But, let us start from the beginning.

Pon Toug left Canton, China, in 1914, to Vancouver, British Columbia. He worked at various jobs and in 1921, he sent for Jim, who attended school in Vancouver till 1924. At this time Pon Toug and his son, Jim, moved to Canora, Saskatchewan, where they had worked for two years. In 1926, the Pon relations called them to Alberta, where there were several Pon families settling into the little towns. They saw an ad in the Chinese newspaper that there was a restaurant for sale in Irma.

A kindly insurance man from Lougheed offered to drive Jim and his father to Irma and it was at the crossroads that he asked Sigurd Fluevog which road to take to Irma.

Pon Toug was able to start business in a restaurant that was on a lot next to the present one, which they named "Club Cafe". They worked very hard to purchase the necessary equipment. Can you believe that the menu offered potato, vegetable and meat, pie and coffee - all for 40¢.

In 1927, a second restaurant was purchased in the next block and it was opened only from May to October of each year. A fire started in the Irma Hotel which destroyed the entire block, including the restaurant on April 13, 1931.

During the depression years there were men riding the freight trains. It was not uncommon for Jim and his father to offer a free meal to the ones that found their way to the restaurant.

Jim brought his bride, Elsie, home to Irma in 1934. She was born in Victoria and raised in New Westminster, British Columbia. They were warmly greeted at the Irma station by many of the local people.

In 1957 the present "Club Cafe" was built. It has all the modern conveniences of running water and natural gas, that the old "Club Cafe" didn't have.

Pon Toug passed away in 1973. He had a very colorful and unique personality.

Jim and Elsie continue to run the restaurant, and were

very happy to have the townspeople join them in celebrating fifty years in business in May 1976.

Jim and Elsie have three children, Jeanette, Laraine and Dennis. Jeanette is married, living in Toronto and works as a nurse, part-time. She and Cliff have two children, Jeffrey and Wendy. Laraine is teaching in Mississauga, Ontario. Dennis is assistant Manager at the Treasury Branches (Head Office) in Edmonton.

Irma and the people have been a very meaningful part of our family life.



Laraine Pond, Wendy Lee, Elsie, Dennis, Jeffrey Lee, Jim, and Jeanette Lee.

MRS. PRINTUP

Mrs. Printup and son Ivan who were of Mexican descent came to the Lynx district in the late teens. They had lived for a few years at Strome also. The Printups had a small negro boy - presumably adopted.

Mrs. Printup was an excellent horsewoman and always rode a big black stallion. She owned a large herd of cattle and was noted for breaking horses. Although they lived on the N.W. 8-47-9 they utilized the open range to run their cattle on.

The family was very hospitable and would welcome visitors with a cup of tea. Mrs. Printup always wore a fringed leather jacket and leather riding skirt. She carried a pistol and it was said she could really use it.

A deep well was drilled on the Printup land and during the thirties it watered hundreds of cattle and horses from the open range.

The Printups left in the early twenties and the land was purchased by Holts. Today the Printup land is owned by the Holt Colony.

Dead Giveaway

**She's all caresses, smiles and purrs
(Proof that, as yet, he isn't hers.)**

— Hartman Chase



Mrs. Printup and Pat.

THE ERLE PRIOR FAMILY

by Betty Pierce and Evelyn Johnson

Erle was born in Ontario on November 23, 1901. At an early age, he came west with his parents. He resided on the homestead in the Orbindale district until he married Elizabeth McCreadie in 1928.

They spent most of their married life on the farm across from the homestead, Section 21-47-8. In the early years, the Prior household was a meeting place for friends and relatives as well as several "hired" men and school teachers for the local school, Orbindale. Don Mullin, Harry Mogey, Slim Matthews, Bill Polijohn and Bill Ostachuk were a number of "hired" men who called the Prior farm "home" off and on over many years. After the death of Elizabeth's mother Margaret McCreadie, in 1935, John McCreadie made his home with Erle and Elizabeth until his death in September, 1939.

The years were filled with raising three children. Evelyn, born September 2, 1930; Betty, born February 18, 1933; and Ronald, born April 8, 1935.

The early years saw a red hot hockey league in which competition was keen. Passchendale, Alma Mater, Salteaux, Albert and Orbindale were some of the league members. The open air rink was east of the William Prior farm buildings and sported its own power plant that provided electric lights for night games. It also had a water well providing easy access for making ice. Erle, as well as playing defenceman on the team, was in charge of the concession booth as well as seeing that things got done such as flooding ice, cleaning the ice, etc. Elizabeth contributed many meals to friends and neighbors before and after hockey games.

Erle and Lizzie both worked hard in the community. Erle was on the School Board for many years, served on the Mannville Hospital Board for twenty and a half years, was lineman for the rural telephone company, for twenty years a charter member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, a charter member of the Irma Elks Lodge No.366, charter member of the Martha Chapter Eastern Star No.124, a member of the Masonic Lodge No.144.

One of his greatest pleasures in life was playing the violin in the Coultman Orchestra. Sometimes it was not only for pleasure, but a great need. They played for about three dollars a night no matter what the weather.

Many stories were told about letting the horses find their own way home in a blinding snowstorm, and muddy roads for the old Model T car.

Elizabeth and her mother belonged to the Farm Women's Union at Avondale before Elizabeth was even married and she still is a member of Unifarm. She was a charter member of the Eastern Star and a charter member of the Royal Purple.

In 1978, Erle and Lizzie celebrated their 50th anniversary. The evening started off with a supper for family and friends at the home of son and daughter-in-law, Ron and Carol. Murray Hamilton (Elizabeth's brother), best man at their wedding, came from Edmonton, hale and hearty at eighty-four years of age. An open house and dance and midnight supper was enjoyed by all at the Albert hall.

The family was saddened by the death of Erle in May of 1981, at the age of 79, leaving his loving wife, Elizabeth, daughter Evelyn and husband Victor Johnson, daughter Betty and husband Art Pierce, son Ronald and wife Carol, twelve grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

In 1982, Elizabeth, daughters Betty and Evelyn and grandson Brent, took a trip to Scotland, land of Elizabeth's birth.

Elizabeth was born at Roucan, Scotland, on February 9, 1903. Her family, John and Margaret McCreadie, and Elizabeth emigrated to Canada when she was ten years old. She had two sisters, Susan and Agnes and three brothers, Will, Jim and Murray, all deceased. Her two brothers Jim and Murray also emigrated to Canada before World War 1 and lived here until their death. Jim married Gladys Stougaard of Irma and lived near Vermilion and then Hanna where he worked for the Alberta Government. They raised five children.

Murray married Nellie McTavish, first teacher at the Avonglen school. They had two children and lived in Edmonton. Murray passed away this past June at the age of eighty-eight years.

While doing a whirlwind sight-seeing tour of Scotland, they visited the nieces and nephews of Elizabeth's sisters near Dumfries as well as visiting places of her childhood. Many of the places were still the same as when Elizabeth left sixty-eight years before.

Elizabeth still in good health, lives on the same farm and in the same house as she came to as a bride in 1928.



Harry Mogey, Ted Prior, John McCreadie holding Ron Prior, Erle Prior, Betty Prior, Don Mullins, Evelyn Prior, Babe Prior and Donald Gunn.



Taken at John Meyer's, 1943. Jenny Meyer, Anne Meyer, Betty Prior holding dog, Fizzer, Ronnie Prior, Eleanor Meyer, Myron and Fred Meyer.



Erle and Elizabeth Prior (McCreadie) married June 26th, 1928.

HISTORY OF RAYMOND (BABE) PRIOR FAMILY

The youngest son of original Orbindale settler, Wm. Prior and wife Martha, Raymond Vyvyn or "Babe" as he was known, was born in Uxbridge, Ontario in February 1915, his mother having returned east to visit her family. As he was the last born in a family of six and there were several years between the eldest and himself, he was affectionately known as Babe to family and friends, a nickname that was to last throughout his lifetime.

Babe attended school at Orbindale where he completed his high school government exams in 1936. He was very active in sports, playing baseball as well as hockey with the Orbindale team.

As his brothers, Erle and Ted, married and moved to adjacent land, Babe continued to farm with his father. Another brother, Bill Jr. had been killed in a shooting accident in 1936 at the age of twenty-three. In 1936 he met Ruby Keller, eldest daughter of Pete Keller who had moved from the Fabyan district to reside on the land



Martha, Babe, Martha (Senior), Jean, Ted, and baby Jack Veitch about 1925.

N.W. 1/4 Sec. 23. After several years of courtship here and in Vancouver, where Ruby worked briefly, they were married March 2nd, 1944 at the home of Babe's sister, Mrs. Jean Veitch, in Courtenay, B.C. They returned to the Orbindale district where Babe continued to farm and subsequently took over when his father passed away in 1958.

To this union were born four children: Janet in 1948; Jane in 1951; Joan in 1952; and Neil in 1955. A tragic farm accident claimed the life of Jane at 18 months when she drowned in a water trough.

Although farming took most of his time, he was an accomplished self-taught carpenter and painter and did many jobs around the community as well as the farm. Babe was a member of long standing in the Gratton Masonic Lodge and active in the Irma Elks.

Babe passed away after a brief illness in 1975. Later Ruby married Allan Taylor of the Passchendale area and they currently reside at Fabyan.

Eldest daughter Janet received her education at Albert Centralized School, entering Grade 1 the first year Albert opened, until Grade eight. After graduating from high school in Irma in 1966 she left for Edmonton where she attended Alberta College for a time and then worked and resided there for a period of nine years. She returned to the district in 1977 with husband Glenn Inkster whom she married in August 1976, and daughter Kerri Ayers by a previous marriage. Another daughter, Lisa, was born in 1977. Glenn is employed by Northwestern Utilities in Irma in addition to farming the original homestead.



Ruby and Babe Prior in 1945.

Second daughter, Joan, was educated initially at Albert School and later Irma from which she graduated. She later attended the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary before enlisting in the Canadian Forces' Air division and earning a diploma in metal technology. She was one of a group of ten servicewomen who were the first females accepted as trainees in this trade. Joan worked in that field at CFB Trenton and CFB Shearwater at Halifax for several years. During her stay at Trenton, she met and married Master Corporal Doug Anderson in October 1976. While at Shearwater she returned to university to complete her Bachelor of Science in Home Economics graduating with distinction. Having majored in dietetics, she completed her internship at Halifax, Victoria Hospital in May, 1984 and is now awaiting a military posting.

Only son, Neil, attended grades one to six at Albert School and graduated from high school in Irma in 1972. For several years he attended the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Education. Later he worked for Edmonton Transit for a short time before leaving to work for Northwestern Utilities where he is currently (1984) employed as a land man. Neil resides in Edmonton where he remains physically active in several sports - running, swimming, softball and cycling.



Ruby and Babe Prior with their children Joan, Janet, and Neil at Christmas, 1974.



Janet and Glenn Inkster on August 21, 1976.



Joan Prior and Douglas Anderson in 1982.



Ruby and Allan Taylor on February 28, 1978.

RON AND CAROL PRIOR

Ron has lived in the Orbindale district most of his life. Only living a quarter of a mile from school he was lured there at an early age (five) by the children's shouts and laughter, only to be sent home by the teacher, Mr. Gunn. After completing his grade nine at Orbindale he boarded with Gar and Elsie Coutlman while attending high school in Irma. During these years Ron enjoyed playing hockey and baseball. He played baseball with Irma, Vermilion and Viking. While with the Viking Shamrocks they won two Provincial "B" Championships and played twice in the Lacombe Baseball Tournament. Ron later played fastball with the Albert Royals and he and his family enjoyed many Sundays going to ball games in the area and neighboring towns. Ron still enjoys hockey with the recreation league in Irma.

After leaving high school he worked with the Department of Highways in Wainwright, the Northwestern Utilities in Wetaskiwin and later with the same company in Irma. In 1964 he left the company to farm with his dad, Erle, in the Orbindale district.

Ron married Carol Fischer in July, 1961.

Carol has lived most of her life in the Irma district also. She is a daughter of George and Marge Fischer. She went to school the first six years at Education Point, with teachers Jean Larson, Norma Elliott and Alma Enger.

She recalls the many winter mornings they huddled together over the square floor furnace after travelling two and one-half miles to school on horseback. When everyone was thawed out a pot of milk was put on to heat to make cocoa or soup for lunch.

A highlight of these years was the annual Christmas concert. School was forgotten two weeks prior to Christmas as practising took over. Everyone from grades one to nine took part. All enjoyed attending other school concerts in the area as well.

Another highlight of these early school years was trips to Edmonton. Can you imagine taking fifteen children, ages six to fifteen to Edmonton for two days? Jean Larson took her class twice the first time by bus and the second by train. Those who had relatives made arrangements to stay with them. Those who had no relatives bunked in with others. Such places as Swifts' Packers, the Parliament Buildings, Canada Dry, CJCA Radio Station, Edmonton Journal, Bakery and the Edmonton Dairy were toured. A picnic at Cooking Lake was also enjoyed.

For grades seven to twelve Carol attended the Irma School. This was quite a change from a one room school. She enjoyed such activities as basketball, curling, yearly school festivals and monthly class assemblies where local talents were enjoyed. She was also a member of the C.G.I.T. group for six years.

After leaving high school Carol attended the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Education. Her first teaching job September, 1961 was grades one to four at the Albert Centralized School. Mrs. Muriel Bazley taught grades five to eight at that time. Carol presently teaches the Early Childhood program in the Irma School.

Ron and Carol both have been active in community organizations. Ron is a member of the Irma Elks No. 336 and the Masonic Lodge No. 136. Carol is presently treasurer of the Irma Royal Purple No. 165 and is active in the Irma Figure Skating Club. They both are members of the Albert Community Organization.

Ron and Carol have three children. Blake who is now attending Lakeland College in Vermilion, completed his high school in Irma. He was a member of the 4-H Beef Club, Irma Minor Hockey and the Lancer Fastball Club. Blake plans to farm when he finishes college. Daughters, Deana and Jackie are in Junior High at the Irma School. They both enjoy figure skating and they belong to the United Church Junior Choir and 4-H Beef Club.

What goes up, must come down — unless it is the repair estimate.



Blake, Grandmother Elizabeth, Deana, Jackie, Carol and Ron Prior.

TED PRIOR FAMILY (See R.T. Meakins)



Ted and Eileen Prior in 1936.



Ted Prior's second home built by H. Sproule.



Beverly, David, Isobell, Verla and Clair Prior.



Ted and Eileen Prior.

THE WILLIAM PRIOR FAMILY

by Erle Prior

In the early nineteen hundreds when the younger man felt the urge "to go west young men", William Prior and James Thomson couldn't resist the temptation to do just that, so early in 1906, they came as far west as the railway, then came on north to what is now central Alberta. Vermilion was the spot. Land agents then drove them to this district to file on the homesteads, which they did and later abandoned, but later became the Elliot section.

In the spring of 1907 they gathered up their settlers effects and chartered a freight car at Uxbridge, Ontario and in it they crowded their worldly possessions and they were on their way west again.

It took a whole month to reach Mannville, as the railway now extended farther west. The horses were only out of the car once on the whole trip. On reaching Mannville they treked south again, but this time they homesteaded in what is known as the Orbindale district. Jim Thomson later moved farther south, but the Prior family stayed and still reside on the original homestead of 1907.

Later that year in the month of August, Mrs. Prior and family of three at the time, Erle, Jean and Martha arrived at Mannville and were met by "Bill" as he was known to all in general, with an old high-wheeled wagon and two of the horses he brought from the east. It was twenty-three

miles to the homestead. What a trip! Eventually they arrived at the homestead's shack in the late evening.

Then came the breaking up of the land and trying to make a living in a new world which was a real struggle at first.

Between 1907 and 1912 two more were added to the family, namely Ted and Bill. In December, 1914, William and Martha decided to visit their old haunts at Uxbridge, Ontario. They took their family and were there in time to spend Christmas with the folks in Ontario, to return again in time for seeding operations. While in Uxbridge, Raymond (Babe) was born to make the sixth and last of the family.

In 1937 the present home was built and that fall Bill Jr. passed away from an accident and Martha passed away in 1942 after suffering from rheumatic fever. Jean was the only one to leave the Orbindale district to make her home in Courtney, B.C. when she married David Veitch of the Mayfield district, north of Wainwright in 1920.

There are sixteen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren in this year 1957.

One of the most feared things that faced the early settlers in the summer were many prairie fires, which were fed by wind and vast open range, could reach an alarming rage, once they got out of control as many did, even burned right to the doorstep.

Dad and Mother Prior are at this time of writing, are the only pioneer couple still alive and still residing in the Orbindale district.

Prior Update:

William Prior passed away in June of 1958, at the age of eighty-two. Martha spent her remaining years between Irma and Toronto and also Courtney, B.C., where eldest daughter Jean and her husband, Dave Veitch and family were living. Martha died in March of 1969 at the age of eighty-nine. Another family member Raymond (Babe) passed away March 26, 1976 at the age of sixty.



Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Prior leaving for town.

E.W. PROSSER FAMILY

by Louisa Prosser

Ervin Wellington Prosser was born in Sutton, on the shore of Lake Simcoe, in Ontario. At the age of seventeen he came out West to the home of his cousin Anne (Prosser) Goodale. Her husband's name was Irvine, also. It wasn't long before Anne decided it was too confusing to have two people with the same name in one household. She said to her cousin "You will have to be Gus". This nickname stuck like glue and to the day of his death he was known in the Irma community as Gus Prosser.

Ervin worked for several farmers in the Education Point School district, namely Colin McLean and Rube Patterson. While at Patterson's he became acquainted with the local schoolteacher, Louisa Barber. This romance led to marriage on July 23rd, 1943 in Victoria, B.C.

Louisa Barber was the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Barber who homesteaded two miles northeast of Irma. She received twelve years of education in the Irma schools before taking teacher training in the Edmonton Normal School. Her teaching career started in 1940 at Ascot, four miles south of Wainwright. She taught at various country schools around Irma and in 1952 began teaching in the village, when Glenholm was closed and the students bussed to Irma. June, 1981 marked the closing of a teaching career of thirty-five years, twenty-nine of which were spent in the Irma school. During this



Linda, Ervin, Louisa, and Correen Prosser in July, 1968.

PROSSER FAMILIES

time eight hundred and forty students went through her classroom doors. Her only 'claim to fame' is in having taught three generations. In her third last year she had a boy in grade four and she had previously taught his mother and his grandmother. Second generation students were very common.

Ervin was in the army and stationed at Esquimalt, B.C. when he and Louisa were married. They lived in Victoria for about seventeen months. For eight months Louisa worked in Dale's Delicatessen Shop in Victoria. After being transferred to Vernon and living a very short time there, Ervin left for Overseas on January 2nd and Louisa started teaching at Alma Mater. Six months later, at the end of June, Ervin was sent home on a hospital ship as lying on damp ground in Germany and Holland had not agreed with his health.

Prossers bought a house from Massons in 1945 and moved into Irma. They lived in it for seventeen years and then Ervin built a new house on the west side of the village. At time of writing it is still Mrs. Prosser's home.

Prossers had two daughters, Linda born February 9th, 1948. She became Mrs. Mel Pomeroy. Correen was born February 4th, 1950 and she became Mrs. Ron Larson. There are now five grandchildren.

Ervin had several jobs. He took a course in barbering in Edmonton when he came back from Overseas and barbered in his brother-in-law's, Harold Barber's, Pool Hall. Following this he had his own business in construction and built many houses in, around Irma and in the Wainwright Army Camp. He had temporary employment with Northwestern Utilities for the last six or so years he was able to work.

Ervin was a keen sportsman. He played hockey with the Irma Aces - sometimes as goalie, and ball with the Tigers. He enjoyed curling in the winter and golfing in the summer, (he was the first to par the Irma Golf Course). Another favorite activity was Big Game hunting in the fall and fishing any time of year as he built an "Ice House" for winter fishing through the ice. For many years he raised Dalmations and shipped the puppies all across Canada and sometimes to the States. After a losing battle with emphysema, Ervin passed away on October 17th, 1975.

Both Ervin and Louisa were very community minded citizens and helped in any way they could to better the community. Ervin was a member of Elks Lodge and Fish and Game Society. Louisa, while teaching, was actively involved in A.T.A. work. Twice she was President of the Wainwright local and also served as Secretary for several years. She did considerable work in getting Irma's first history book together.

The United Church and Sunday School have always played a leading role in Louisa's life. She was secretary-treasurer of the Sunday School for over thirty years and is now in her thirteenth year as treasurer of the Church.

This year, 1984, Louisa is Honored Royal Lady of the Irma O.O.R.P. and President of the U.C.W.

The Prosser home has been opened on two occasions to Japanese exchange students. Since September, 1983, Louisa has been enjoying the company of Hiroko Nobui of Tokyo, Japan.

Leslie Samuel Prosser was born August 22nd, 1929 in the Mannville hospital to Sherman and Helen Prosser (nee Greer). A brother Marvin was born two years later and a girl, Audrey, completed the family. Shortly after this Sherman and Helen parted. The boys stayed with their father and Audrey went with her mother. Helen, in time, married Cal Goodale and moved to Eastern Canada.

Leslie and Marvin attended Education Point school. Although Marvin was not yet of school age, he followed Leslie like a shadow - so went to school with him. Marvin couldn't talk very well but was always with his older brother.

Sherman married Ellen Anderson and a daughter, Lorna, was born to this marriage. They moved to land west of Albert school on secondary highway 619, now owned by Fords. From this location the boys attended Lynx school. They had a trapline set on the way to school in which they caught rabbits to feed the pigs. They had very little grain because not much land was broken.

Their next move was four miles north, just north of where Gordon Holt lives today and is now in the Community Pasture. They had no water well so Sherman bought a well-drilling machine from Toni Rabby of Viking. This was the start of his well-drilling days which lasted over twenty-five years.

In 1947 they had a farm sale and moved to the west coast. Within a year the family returned and settled in



Dale and Lisa, Les, Doreen, Loretta, Donna and Lorraine.

Mannville, and later Sangudo. But, alas, they were still drilling wells!

Marvin met Marjorie Rolfe of Sangudo and married her in 1955. They started farming and had a large herd of cattle. A son, Marty, was born to this marriage which dissolved a few years later. Marvin remarried and another son was born, but this marriage too ended in divorce. In 1978 Marvin moved to Minburn and built a new house where he and Jean live. Marty lives there when he is working in the area.

Leslie met Doreen Pyke at Sherman's farm sale. Doreen had been born and raised in the Glenora district southwest of Kinsella. They were married November 11th, 1952 in Viking. At the time Doreen was employed at the Viking hospital and worked there until spring. She then came to the farm to garden and milk cows as Leslie worked out each summer. They worked hard but enjoyed it.

On November 3rd, 1954, Dale was born. Lorraine and Loretta came along on April 22nd, 1957 and Donna completed the family on June 26th, 1959. That was enough family to keep them busy.

They bought Sherman's farm south half of 6-48-9 in November of 1959 and moved there. They had cold, running water and indoor plumbing - two great things to have in those days.

Leslie and Bruce Greenwood had purchased a D7 cat in 1958 and did lots of custom brushing and breaking in the Irma, Kinsella area.

In 1971 the Prossers became foster parents and raised sixteen children in all, but retired from this in 1982.

In 1981 they had a farm sale and bought land close to Dale at Minburn. They built a new home in Minburn and enjoy living there. They own a parcel of land in Arizona and spend the winters there.

Dale attended the School for the Deaf in Edmonton. He married Linda Nickel (now divorced). They had two sons Dory (deceased) and Marion, now six, who lives with his dad. Dale and Leslie farm together.

In 1975 Lorraine graduated from Irma high school and in 1981 received her B.Sc. in nursing. She married Moris Malderis and had two sons, Douglas and Arturs. This marriage ended in divorce and she moved to Vegreville as a Home Care Nurse. She has since married Arnold Anderson of Minburn. They live there on a small farm with her two sons and Arnold's two sons. Arnold works as a mechanic at Barick Autobody in Mannville, while Lorraine carries on as Home Care Nurse.

Loretta attended Albert school where Genon Astley was her teacher. Genon had taught Leslie at Willow View. Loretta completed her schooling at Irma and graduated with a B.Sc. degree in nursing in 1979. While attending U. of A. she met Mervin Krull, who had a three year old daughter. They married in 1978 and after several moves, settled in Millwoods. With the help of a family building bee, they erected a new house in 1980. In 1983 they adopted a brother and sister, Debbie nine and David six. Merv teaches at the School for the Deaf and Loretta is a Health Nurse in Millwoods.

Donna took three years of schooling at Albert and then attended Irma. Later she attended Salisbury school in Sherwood Park, then Mannville, before finishing at

Viking. For awhile she helped Dale raise Dory. Donna took an Early Childhood Development program at Vermilion. She married Dwight Hill of Buffalo Coulee and they have two daughters, Skye Meegan and Colby Alexcia, and live on a farm at Minburn. Donna passed away in 1984.

Lisa came to live with Prossers at the age of seven. She attended school in Irma and Viking. In August, 1978 she married Bill Taylor of Viking and three children, William, Martyne, and Christian were born to this union. Bill worked in the Treasury Branch in Lloydminster before being transferred to Edmonton. Bill is now the assistant manager for New York Life. Lisa does custom sewing as well as enjoys many hobbies.

PERCY AND FRANCES PROSSER

by Frances Prosser

Percy (Pert) Prosser and Frances White were married in Irma in 1948. Pert had enlisted early in the war and took basic training at Camrose. He was a sapper with the Royal Canadian Engineers. He went overseas by boat, was stationed in England. The blitz was on when England was bombed so unmercifully. The blockade kept ships from bringing in supplies. Food was in short supply, people suffered. "Never in the history of mankind has so much, been owed to so few, by so many," said Winston Churchill of this period. Pert says he was always hungry and it was wet and cold. He admired the spirit of the English as they took all this in their stride.

He got in touch with some of Elsie Coultman's relatives over there and spent some leaves with them. The English experience gave Pert a fondness for exceedingly strong, black tea - he wondered if they'd have survived without it. But he got a strong dislike for mutton from the war and used to say "When he got a place of his own he'd like to tie a sheep to the gate and kick its backside every time he passed it."

Pert went to Europe and can tell many interesting and dramatic stories about events there. His division cleared roads of land mines, built Bailey bridges, repaired roads, among other things. The Dutch were jubilant when the Canadians got there. Women and children hugged and kissed them but were so hungry they scraped up crumbs to eat. Pert says he was the second best runner in the army. When the shelling was too bad and they ran for cover, the same man would always outrun him. Our daughter, Gayle, at a very young age, used to tell people the reason her daddy wasn't killed was because he could run so fast.

One time he was on guard duty in a house in Holland, with orders to shoot if anything moved. They knew there were enemies hiding out. Everything was in darkness when he heard a voice "waser, waser" (whatever the Dutch word for water was). He had almost pulled the trigger, but it was a Dutch girl, who with her parents and siblings were hiding in the basement. They had been some time without water and the girl had no way of knowing if it was friend or foe.

Another time when he was stationed in one place for a time Pert gave his porridge ration every morning to a little boy that regularly showed up.



Percy, Frances, Gayle and Robin in 1965.

After the war when he returned home to the Irma area, where he'd been born and brought up, Pert decided to farm. He got land northeast of Irma, some sixteen and one-half miles in the Avonglen district. This was virgin soil and had to be brushed and broken. So many times when the crops were heavy on the breaking, there would be an early frost and the wheat would grade five and feed, but mostly the land and crops were good.

Avonglen is a pleasant district in which to live and we have good neighbors. The community has seen many changes. The children from here have been bussed to Irma school for twenty-seven years. Most entertainments, showers etc. are held in town now. The farms are larger.

Our daughter, Gayle, was born in 1950. She became a teacher, is married to Alan Munro, an Edmonton lawyer. They have a fifteen month old son, James Alan Percy. Our son, Robin, was born in 1953. He is married to Shirly Fowler; they have a four year old daughter, Jeanne Dawn. Shirly and Robin farm our land as Pert retired a few years ago. They live four and one-half miles northwest of the homeplace, where Pert and I still live.

The Prosser family all love to fish. Pert has the bug too, and spends much of his time with his camper parked near a lake in suitable weather. He says his health is better near the water.



Miette Hot Springs, 1965, Pert Prosser with his catch after the big ones got away.

I manage to keep busy and always have more 'things' planned than I get done. I enjoy reading, poetry, crosswords, craftwork, sewing, baking, gardening, visiting, traveling, listening to music.

We enjoy our children, relatives and the grandchildren as well as friends; and hope Alberta will always be beautiful and safe for those who come after us.

WELLINGTON PROSSER FAMILY

In the spring of 1909, pioneer Wellington Prosser, who had been born in Roache's Point, Ontario in 1876, arrived in Mannville, Alberta, with his wife Margaret and three sons; Sherman, Freeman and Melvin. As there was no railroad at Irma until late in 1909, Welly, as he was called, moved their effects by bobsled down to Orbindale (northeast of Irma) to his brother's homestead.

Welly later filed on a homestead a short distance away in Education Point School District. He built a shack and lean-to and sod buildings such as pigpen, hen house and blacksmith shop (from sod off the top of ground). These buildings were warm in winter and cool in summer. Some people built houses of sod.

The grass, called prairie wool, was high and very dangerous when prairie fires swept through the countryside. Buildings were often saved by plowing fireguards around them with horses and a walking plow. A fire came in the fall when Arlie, the first pioneer daughter was arriving. Mrs. Prosser was alone at the time and there were no doctors.

There were no fences, only trails that led across country to the village of Irma where some supplies were available. Mr. Layton Barss hauled the mail from Irma to Orbindale post office at that time. Oxen were seen ambling across the prairie over buffalo wallows which were numerous and deep.

Welly bought a Sawyer-Massey steam engine. He had to write and pass an exam before he could use it. A thirteen furrow plow was used to break the sod and this he did for many other settlers, (a sod buster) so he was often away from home weeks at a time. Steam engines had to have water hauled to them by a "tankee" which



John, Sherman, Anne, Percy, Martha, Arlie, Freeman, Yvonne, Freeman's daughter taken 1963.



Mel and Freeman Prosser.

was Freeman; as well he was "straw-monkey". A. K. Stewart and Sherman fired the engine - so many "toots" meant more water, "more straw" or "dinner time".

As grain fields got larger, more men were needed on threshing crews, some had twenty-four. These men had to be fed even when it rained, as many were from a long distance away.

Three girls and two more boys were added to the family. Ann, Percy (Pert), Cecil (John), Martha and Doreen. This was a family of assorted individuals; most of them had a fondness for animals, especially horses. They liked telling and hearing stories and jokes, playing pranks and sports. Melvin played the violin (fiddle) at dances and was especially entertaining telling stories. A new big barn was built and dances were held in it.

1918 was a hard winter; snow was as high as poplar trees and it was so cold that animals froze standing up. The terrible plague "flu" struck and people died like flies. Doc. McGregor was on the road night and day caring for the sick. Mrs. Prosser was very ill and the doctor said her life had been spared by a severe nosebleed (which relieved pressure).

Mr. and Mrs. Prosser, Sherman, Melvin, Doreen and Ann have passed on. Freeman lives in the Wainwright area. Arlie and Martha in Edmonton, John in Vancouver. Pert lives on his farm in the Irma district.



Welly Prosser

PURVIS FAMILY

Among the original homesteaders were the Purvis families. Howard and Clarence Purvis filed homesteads on the W 1/2 2-45-9 in 1906. J.A. Purvis, Clarence Purvis, Clifton Purvis and Charles Purvis were among those who were instrumental in organizing the Strawberry Plains School District. The first regular meeting was held on November 11, 1907 with Mr. J.A. Purvis as chairman. Mr. Clifton Purvis was the first teacher but left after the first year to study law.

The first church services were held in the Purvis home until the school was constructed.

As early as 1908 there was a Strawberry Plains baseball team with Cliff Purvis playing second base.

There must be much more of the Purvis history but we were not able to find anyone who could relate it to us.

HENRY G. PROTHERO FAMILY

by Margaret Shotts (Clifford)

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Prothero were both born in England, Henry in Hereford and Kathleen Noel in London. Henry homesteaded in the Orbindale district in the early 1900's, on S.W. 8-47-8-W4. For several years he spent his summers on the farm, returning to England during the winter months.

In 1917 he married Kathleen Noel, an accomplished violinist, who played in the London Opera. Mrs. Prothero joined him on the homestead in 1920. They had two daughters, Audrey and Jean, who attended school at Orbindale.

Mr. Prothero was an excellent gardener, taking prizes at local fairs for vegetables and flowers, while Mrs. Prothero's musical talent on the violin was appreciated by everyone far and wide. Mrs. Prothero died in 1942, a victim of cancer. She is buried in the Irma cemetery. Mr. Prothero had one arm off below the elbow. The neighbors thought he was very brave to tackle farming with such a handicap. Mrs. Prothero had helped him a great deal with the farm work.

The farm was sold to Mr. Frank Ford in 1945 and the family moved to Edmonton. Later Mr. Prothero and Audrey lived in England, returning to Vancouver. Mr. Prothero lived with his daughter Jean until his death in 1948.

Jean (Mrs. Fred Halwas) and her family live at Parksville, B.C. and Audrey (Mrs. Grant Scott) lives in Vancouver. Like her mother, Audrey is a talented violinist, often playing on radio and singing in choirs on T.V.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLIE PYLE

by Evaline Pyle

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Pyle (nee Evaline Herbert) were married in the fall of 1926 and lived on the farm of Mr. Fred Pyle, Sr. for one year, then they bought a quarter of land one mile from Irma. This was C.P.R. property and raw land, not one foot broken on it. Charlie dug out a cellar, then bought our little house from Bert Long which

he moved down with four horses and put it over the cellar. This was our home for a number of years. As our family started to arrive we were forced to enlarge our house, so Charlie put a lean-to on the west side with the help of Gerald Currie.

The first year we lived there Charlie broke about twenty acres with four horses, also a little garden. This was worked down so we could sow it the next spring. Charlie continued to break this land a little each year until all the raw land was broken up. I helped with picking rocks and roots and took my baby with me in the carriage. We had quite a lot of trouble in the beginning of our life. We lost a little girl at sixteen months, then a son at thirteen years, drowned in the Battle River. Charlie worked out a lot, he used to work checking gravel for the Municipal District for several years. He then had the mail route for four years, but when it was up for another four years, he did not take it again. He then went to work for the M.D. of Wainwright for three years. He quit and went on with 'Nicodemus Construction' for two or three years, but he quit this as he was too far away from home. Then he went to work for the M.D. of Minburn and was there over twenty years. He finally had to resign his position as foreman due to ill health.

Our old house was getting worse all the time, it was rotting away from the sills so we were forced to build a new house. We didn't enjoy it for too long as his health was gradually getting worse all the time. We decided we had better sell it and move to Wainwright, so we could be closer to a doctor and the hospital. The Knudson brothers built the house. We then sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Sonny Archibald in 1968. When he felt better he went to work for the Co-op lumberyard building granaries, which he did on and off for five years. He was also telephone trouble man for several years, as we only had one quarter of land and this was not enough to supply money to feed our family. I tried to help all I could so I raised a lot of turkeys, chickens and pigs. We did have cattle, but they became such a nuisance, because neither one of us were home. They used to get into our crop and at times were in the neighbors', so we just sold them all. That eased the burden somewhat. I went to work at the Army Camp as a cook and worked on and off for twenty years. This



Charlie Pyle family. Back Row: Gordon, Shirley, Glen. Front Row: Charlie and Evaline.

helped considerably. I was working there when I had my sixty-fifth birthday. I then went to the Husky Gas Liner and worked there for three years. After that I quit work entirely and have been enjoying retirement ever since.

We raised three nice children, both Glenn and Gordon worked with their father on the M.D. Glenn worked there until he married but Gordon joined the Air Force and married Faye Smith afterwards and is still in the service. Shirley was a switchboard operator for several years. She then married. Eventually she lost her husband, then went to work with Hull Home in Calgary and she is now the Supervisor there. They all got a good education in Irma.

In 1980 Charlie's health was deteriorating very fast and in March of 1981 he passed away. It was hard to part, but thank God he doesn't suffer any more.

While living at Irma Ernie Rae, Jimmy Kennedy and myself had a little orchestra during this time. We played all over the country. Didn't make the money then that they do today, but we did the best we could and played for more years than I care to remember.

FRED PYLE, SR.

I, Frederick Pyle, was born on April 17th, 1873 at West Buckland, North Devon, England. In September 1891 I was married to Elizabeth Ann Turner and to our marriage was born two boys and two girls. Our older boy, Fred, now lives at Oliver, B.C.; our older daughter Ann married Ernest Appleton and lives in Exeter, Ontario; Mary Elizabeth married Layton Barrs of the Albert district and Charles settled with his wife on a farm near Irma.

In April, 1912, I moved from Ontario to Alberta and settled on the S.E. 2-48-9-W4th in the district called Zoldavara. I brought lumber with me to build a 12' x 14' house. My barn and hen house were made of sod. The only equipment I had was a plough, harrows and three oxen. After I got settled my family came to Alberta. My first crop was a very poor grade so in order to support my family I had to go to Edmonton to get work.

Irma was our main town and we each took our turn to bring the mail each week. I didn't go to Mannville very often but once a year I would take wheat to have it ground into flour. This trip with the oxen would take one day to go and one to come home.

In 1911 our schoolhouse was built on an acre of land donated by Mr. William Matthews. The settlers of the community didn't like the name the Government had given the district so they changed it from Zoldavara to Albert.

My daughter Mary was the first bride in the Albert district when she married Layton Barrs. The first minister we had was Mr. Reeves from Mannville district. He came to Albert every two weeks, a distance of seventeen miles. He held his services at our house until the schoolhouse was built.

Mrs. Pyle and the teacher at the time, Miss Parsons, organized a box social to raise money to buy an organ for the school.

Mr. and Mrs. Pyle set up a home which was quickly famous for its hospitality. As it was situated about halfway between Irma and Mannville, it was a favorite stopping place.

Surely Mr. Pyle's most lucky day must have been his wedding day for few men have been fortunate enough to find such a helpmate as he had. Her housekeeping and cooking were par excellence and she had a heart of gold.

When sickness or trouble came to any home in the district Mr. and Mrs. Pyle could be relied upon to be quickly on the scene with sincere sympathy, and a cake or a roast of pork or some tasty offering.

Mr. Pyle with his quick, lively nature was good company. His greatest frustration was found in putting together balky stove pipes, and his greatest joy was in eating Mrs. Pyle's apple pie with thick cream.

When Mrs. Pyle's health began to fail they moved to Pitt Meadows, B.C. where Mrs. Pyle passed away in 1940. Mr. Pyle continued to live at Pitt Meadows where he subscribed to the Irma Times. Sometime later he remarried but this marriage was not as successful. He moved to Kamloops, B.C. where he passed away in an Auxiliary Hospital April 13th, 1961.

PLYE, GORDON AND FAYE



Grandma Pyle and Kathleen with Jenny (horse and buggy).



Homestead of Fred Pyle, S.E. 2-48-9 later Bob Johnson lived here.



Fred Sr. and Elizabeth Pyle taken on farm in Albert district.

Although we have been away from Irma since high school (1963), I'm sure some of you have seen us from time to time at Irma Days, or one of my short, long weekends home over the years.

We have three children; Annette (twenty) who is now married to Randy Newton of Irma, they have one child, Jordan, Michele (nineteen) currently living in Chilliwack and Kristen (eleven), who keeps us busy with his hockey.

Well they advertise join the forces and see the world. In the last 20 years we have done just that. Gordon has travelled around the world and as a family we've lived in Ontario, Manitoba, B.C. and Alberta, besides our biggest tour of all to Germany. We were fortunate enough to acquire another posting to Rotterdam, Holland, tentative departure July 1984.

The girls have had the opportunity of being exposed to a different culture at an early age and Kris will now be able to do likewise. I know we all have many memories of each place we've called home and of the many friends we've acquired along the way.

One has to be part gypsy to enjoy our lifestyle, and its only just begun, next its via sailboat, as Gordon has spent the last two years completing his boat.



Gordon, Faye, Annette and Randy Newton, Kristen and Michelle Pyle.

Irma Ice Cream Parlor

ICE CREAM, ICE COLD SOFT DRINKS

LUNGES AT ALL HOURS, FRUITS IN SEASON

SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO AUTO PARTIES

Otto Bethge, Proprietor



1927: Back Row: Aletha Knudson, Vera Hatch. Front Row: Agnes Campbell, Jacqueline Tate, Ruth Reed, Margaret and Ethel Tate (note doll buggies).



Farm fun for Marion Smallwood and Erna Mills.



Anita, Randy and Billy Newton with kittens.



Maureen and Ronnie Dempsey.



Isobell, Beverly and David Prior in 1948.



Mac pulling sleigh in winter 1981 with Susan, Kathy, and Naomi Coffin.

THE RAASOK REPORT

by Solveig Raasok (nee Steffensen)

One of my earliest recollections involves going to Irma with Dad in the wagon on a sunny afternoon in the fall of 1928, to buy more lumber from P.J. Hardy for the house in which we now live. Warnings that it would take some time to load the lumber and that the trip home would take longer and end after dark, didn't deter me from this anticipated excitement. However, I became very bored in Irma, and so cold on the way home after sunset, that I had to get off the load and run to warm up.

Recalling subsequent trips to Irma in the thirties, I remember seeing men on top of the freight train cars as we waited at the railroad crossing. They were unemployed, and had no money to pay for transportation as they travelled looking for employment. One Sunday, two young fellows carrying their possessions, walked to our home seeking work. We didn't need extra men, but my mother fed them.

My first year (1930-31) at Glenholm School is probably my most poignant recollection. I knew very little English outside of the numbers which my parents had insisted I learn before starting school. I still remember Miss G. Murdoch holding up a chair, pointing to the card with "chair" printed on it, saying "chair" and asking me to repeat after her. Of the twenty-three pupils in school, I knew three (the only Norwegians besides myself) and, since they were boys, I was very lonesome. In fact, I disliked school so much that my mother had to walk at least half way to school with me every morning. Often, after she had returned home, I would change my reluctant steps from going toward the school to going home. It must have been embarrassing for my dad as trustee and secretary for the school to receive a letter from the Superintendent of Schools regarding the irregular attendance of his daughter. That, together with my mother's reminders regarding the importance of an education and that I must not let my Norwegian ancestors down, gave me the determination not only to overcome the difficulties of grade one, but to continue going to school until I had obtained the best education possible for me.

After completing the eight grades which Glenholm School offered at that time, I went to Irma High School for grades nine and ten. When the weather didn't permit riding my bicycle, I, like many rural students, rode horseback to school. We girls had to remember to bring a skirt to change into for classes, because slacks were only allowed for physical education. Between Christmas and Easter, I joined the group of students who lived in Irma from Monday to Friday, because distance from school made it impractical to go back and forth every day, especially in the winter. In her concern for my well-being during this first departure from home, my mother arranged for me to board at the Irma Manse with Reverend and Mrs. Longmire, Marion, and Lois. Lois was in the same grade as I. After eight years of sandwiches carried to school in a syrup or lard pail, Mrs. Longmire's hot meals at noon are foremost in my memories of that time.

The excitement of going to a residential high school

lured me to take grade eleven at Camrose Lutheran College, but I returned to "Irma High" for the first half of grade twelve in order to accompany my sister who was in grade ten, having been able to take grade nine at Glenholm. However, "Irma High" had not introduced "Grad" yet, so I finished grade twelve at C.L.C. in order to participate in its graduation festivities.

Just prior to the grade twelve departmental examinations in 1942, the Department of Education sent out a Comprehensive Test which all grade twelve students in Alberta could write if they were interested in attending the Edmonton Normal School in July and August, and then going to teach in September. This summer course, limited to one hundred twenty-five students was a "once only" innovation by the Department of Education to alleviate the teacher shortage brought about by teachers enlisting in the forces for World War II. I wrote the test, and received a letter the end of June that became instrumental in my becoming a teacher as it invited me to register on July 3, 1942, for classes in the Garneau School. It was being used for teacher training as the Edmonton Normal School had been taken over by the Air Force.

We "trainees" were given the opportunity to choose where in Alberta we wished to teach. I chose the Peace River area, and was assigned a school southeast of Fairview where I had to live in a teacherage. The Department of Education paid travelling and living expenses, plus \$1.25 a day wages. We were called "trainees" because we had to return to Edmonton in March to continue our training until graduation in May. Other "short course" teachers were sent out to replace us.

As a certified teacher, I taught in three rural schools: Roseberry, Chester, northwest of Hines Creek in the Fairview School Division where there was a \$200.00 bonus for teaching in outlying schools, and Glenholm. Besides changing teacher training, the war also affected the school year and day. The rural school term didn't begin until October in 1943 so farm youth could help with harvest. The introduction of daylight saving time resulted in school opening at ten a.m. (ten-thirty during the winter months) so youngsters wouldn't have to leave home in the dark.

After obtaining a B.Ed. degree from the University of Alberta, I taught at Camrose Lutheran College, and at Irma in the grades four and five room (1949-50) when Mrs. Chase was ill. Then I went to Norway for five months and on my return I taught in the grade eight and nine room (1950-51), and French in "Irma High" (1961-63).

During the ten-year interval between teaching in Irma four important events took place: my marriage to Ole Raasok (November, 1951) who had emigrated from Norway in March and took over the operation of my dad's farm, the arrival of twin girls, Marianne and Marlene (New Year's Day, 1953), and an eleven-month visit in Norway for the four of us. Even as our family increased to four children with the arrival of Steven (November, 1964) and Sylvia (January, 1967) we have continued to make visits to Norway as a family, because all the paternal relatives (except for an uncle in Seattle)



Ole, Solveig, Steven, Sylvia, Marlene, Jim Cole and Marianne Cole.

were there.

However, after each trip we have returned feeling thankful that our home is here. We have been actively involved with Sharon Lutheran Church and various organizations which help make the Irma community a good place to live and raise a family. Our children have all been members of the 4-H Beef Club and the Figure Skating Club, although Steven eventually opted to play hockey. He also enjoyed Cubs, is now an ardent curler, and is with his dad in the Fish and Game Club. Sylvia, having obtained her Coach's Badge in figure skating, is presently teaching the younger members of the club as well as taking lessons. The girls have all played on Irma's fastball teams.

At present, Marianne, who has been teaching since 1974 when she received her B.Ed. degree, is living near Rocky Mountain House where she and her husband, James Cole from New Norway, have an acreage. He commutes to Wetaskiwin where he is manager of the Co-op Feed Mill. Besides teaching, Marianne has been involved with promoting rodeo, and was Miss Rodeo Canada in 1978. In that capacity she travelled extensively in the four western provinces, and helped escort Queen Elizabeth when the "Royal Party" attended a gymkhana at Lac Cardinal in the Peace River Country, August 1, 1978.

Marlene, besides winning several scholarships, was awarded The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Gold Medal with her B.Sc. in Pharmacy in 1974. After a year of post-graduate study at Foothills Hospital in Calgary, she worked two years in the Royal Alexandra Hospital pharmacy. In November 1979, she obtained her Degree of Master of Health Services Administration. She is now living in Regina where she is Regional Director for Extendercare (Alberta) Ltd.

Steven is attending Lakeland College at Vermilion where he is enrolled in a two-year course in Vocational Agriculture. When Sylvia, who is in grade twelve,

graduates in June, 1984, we will retire (with mixed feelings) at least from the school lunch and school bus routine of the past twenty-five years!

JEAN AND ERNEST RAE

as told by Jean and Ernest

Ernest Rae was born in Hemmingford, Quebec. When he was six years old with his family, mother, father and younger brother moved to Edmonton, Alberta. His father, a farrier, plied his trade in Edmonton their first winter in Western Canada. The family lived in the old C.P.R. station that had been converted into two apartments. This was when Ernest saw his first buffalo - two carloads of them and their herders with their horses being held over a weekend on the C.P.R. tracks. These buffalo, bought by the Federal Government, were being shipped from Montana to Wainwright, Alberta and formed the nucleus of what became the large herd at the Wainwright National Buffalo Park.

While in Edmonton the boys first attended school in a room over the Douglas hardware store on Whyte Avenue. Ernest also recalls the High Level Bridge being built and Mr. Colin McLean and Mr. Reuben Patterson hauling material for the piers.

In the spring of 1909 the family moved to what is now the Albert district north of Irma where Mr. Rae had chosen his South African Scrip. The spring, summer and early fall were spent in making the improvements to meet government requirements. The boys spent their time keeping track of cows, snaring gophers and watching the men breaking and clearing the land. Ernest even drove three oxen on a walking plow to break land.

Ernest remembers a real treat that spring of a drink of good well-water from Mr. Barss Senior's hand-dug well. The Raes had been using slough water until they had a well dug. Imagine a drink of good water being regarded now as a special treat.

This pattern of moving to the farm in the spring and returning to Edmonton for the winter continued for several years until the scrip was proved up. During this time the boys went to school only in winter and Ernest said he remained in the same grade for several years as he never completed a full school year. After the scrip was proved up Mr. Rae rented it to his brother-in-law, Herb Campbell, and the family remained in Edmonton for several years. During this time the boys attended school regularly and Garneau was their last school in Edmonton.

In 1914 Mr. Rae sold the scrip and rented and then bought land west of Irma. Ernest attended school in Irma until he was about 15. He then worked with his father on the farm and for other people. He was always interested in breaking and riding horses. In the summer of 1920 he rodeoed especially in the Battlebend Rodeo south of Hardisty which was one of the biggest rodeos in Alberta at that time. Ernest was No. 8 and when the announcer called his number he called "Watch No. 8 with clean shirt and dirty horse, Watch for dirty shirt and clean horse." He won a wild horse race and won a mule for being able to ride it. The mule tamed down and was used for rounding up cattle. It couldn't be kept inside fences so

had to be tethered.

In the summer of 1924 he worked for Alf Larson and learned to speak Norwegian. Alf couldn't pay him wages until the crop was sold but told Ernest to get his work clothes and other things he needed from Hostrup's store and charge them to Alf. During that time he earned some cash by breaking horses for others. In the fall of 1924 he stooked for Roy Loss, who farmed where Albert Knudson now lives, and threshed with Charlie Reed. In December of 1924 he married Jean Blades and they spent that winter in Edmonton where Ernest worked at the Furniture Exchange for 35¢ an hour.

Jean Rae, the former Jean Blades, was born in Nova Scotia and when four years old moved with her family to Sunny Slope in Southern Alberta where her father farmed. Before the family moved to Alberta her father had been to Kamloops, B.C. where he, a steam engineer, operated the steam boiler at the hospital there.

They moved from Sunny Slope to Morin, Alberta where her father got a quarter section homestead that had been cancelled and bought an adjacent quarter section. She came to Irma with her family in 1919 and they settled on the farm where Blaine Copeland now lives. Jean remembers the winter of 1919 and 1920 as being bitterly cold with lots of snow. She first went to school at Ross and then Irma Public and High School.

While at home she helped milk a large number of cows and did other farm chores. She remembers spending long hours hunting those cows on the open range. Ernest said he first met her riding a sorrel pony while hunting cows.

After spending their first married winter in Edmonton, Jean and Ernest returned to Irma in the spring of 1925 and lived with the senior Raes for a while. Ernest put in the crop for Fenton Nash that spring. In 1926 they rented the S.W. quarter of 36-45-10 from the Mortgage Company. This was the former Schaffner homestead and Jean and Ernest lived in the old homestead house for a number of years. They still live in the same yard. This quarter was stoney and rough with not much broken on it. Ernest broke two more acres that first summer for \$5 an acre. Later he broke more and in 1927 had a good crop. In 1927 he bought a mule that worked well with a horse. Later he had three mules that worked well and always took good care of themselves.

In 1934 or '35 Ernest bought the northwest quarter of 36-45-10 and in 1948 bought the northeast and southwest quarters of the same section for \$2400.

During this time Jean did the housework, raised a garden, and chickens and turkeys. She sold dressed turkeys for 19¢ a pound. Soon, too, Jean and Ernest had milk cows. Jean helped milk cows and they shipped cream and Jean made butter which she sold for 8¢ a pound. Eggs were about 3¢ a dozen with almost no sale for them. Jean said she beat up eggs and put them in the skim milk they fed to the calves - "pail bunters" they were called.

Eventually Jean and Ernest acquired a Model T Ford for summer transportation. Jennie, the mule, towed it into the yard when it was muddy. In 1936 Ernest built a sturdy no-tip closed sleigh making runners from railroad ties with shoeing made from grader blades. These closed sleighs or cutters with a small stove in them were quite a

BUCKET BABY

*What's the matter, little calf,
Don't you like your mama made of tin'
Get to thumping on that bucket
Or you're going to get mighty thin.*

*Come on now, little fella,
Hurry up and eat your lunch;
You don't want to grow up
And be the smallest of the bunch.*

*Let me tell you something, calfy,
You're as stubborn as can be,
But you're going to learn to eat
If you expect to get along with me.*

popular means of winter transportation at that time. He hitched four horses to it and hauled large loads of feed behind it to the cattle.

Ernest worked on the first No. 14 highway when it was built in 1920. Mr. George Sissons was the civil engineer in charge at that time. Ernest also maintained a section of this highway and was on it with grader and truck in 1954. In 1956 he worked on the new highway when the base was being applied and again for New West Construction when the top material was applied. He did well financially on this job. He also worked for the Wainwright Municipality as grader man in 1978 for Alex Smallwood and Myron Meyers. Ernest had run the engine on his father's threshing machine for many years. In 1952 he bought a threshing machine from Keith Coffin for \$450 to get their crop threshed. Ken Rae, their son, ran the machine as Ernest was working on the highway. They threshed for neighbors and paid for the machine the first fall and afterwards made money threshing for neighbors.

Jean carried on household duties and farm chores but cow milking became a thing of the past. She became a member of the Irma Women's Institute in 1928 and has continued as a faithful and dependable member taking her turn as its president for one term. After Charters moved into town from the farm Jean did housework for Mrs. Charter for seventeen years and for ten years she worked on the switchboard of the telephone office when Mrs. Ella McRoberts was in charge of it. As a proficient quilter she is a regular member at the weekly quilting done at the United Church by its ladies.

Ernest and Jean have three sons, Allan, an accountant, in Edmonton; Murray in Irma, Kenneth at home who is taking on most of the farm work from his father. They have five grandchildren.

Ernest, from experience, became a self-taught water well repairman and was always ready to help anyone having well problems.

Music came natural to Ernest and he learned, mostly self-taught, to play the violin both by note and by ear. He came into possession of a hundred year-old violin that had come unglued. With the help of Jimmy Kennedy he put it back together and it is a prized instrument which he plays. He is an adept old-time fiddler and has been a

contestant in old-time fiddle contests. With Jimmy Kennedy and Evaline Pyle, he played for many dances. Now with Marney Barss, Josie Holt and sometimes Lorna Jackson he helps produce enjoyable toe-tapping music. Allan played banjo with this group.

Jean and Ernest are now semi-retired still living in their farm home. Jean carries on the household tasks with many modern conveniences and still keeps a few hens for old-time's sake, especially Minorcas as pets. She has made a number of trips back to her native Nova Scotia where she greatly enjoys visiting relatives.

This couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in December of 1974 and have their 60th anniversary coming up.

It is hoped that they will continue for some time yet to have good health and happy times.

MR. AND MRS. J.G. RAE

as told by Ernest Rae

Mr. and Mrs. J.G. Rae and sons Ernest and Wilmer came to Alberta from Hemmingford, Quebec in 1908.

Mr. Rae was born in Montreal but raised in Hemmingford where he learned the farrier trade (horseshoeing). He spoke both English and French fluently. Jack Rae, as he was known, had come to Alberta in 1898 and worked for the Railroad near Calgary as a farrier. He drove by team to the Stettler area to look over the country. Near Stettler he met a family moving into Alberta who carried coals or fire in an iron kettle as they had no matches to light fires. Jack Rae had plenty of matches which he shared with the family so they wouldn't have to carry coals. During this time he also worked on a cattle ranch in Montana.

Returning to Hemmingford, Mr. Rae enlisted with the cavalry as a farrier in the Boer War and served in South Africa from 1899-1901. On one occasion he and some others swam the Bloemfontein River with their equipment and drew the fire of the Boers from the ford on the river enabling the main body to cross it.

Mrs. Rae, the former Rosina Gertrude Campbell, was born and raised in Hemmingford, Quebec. Like most young women of that time she remained at home assisting with the housework, especially as her mother was not very strong. Shortly after his return from the Boer War, she married J. G. Rae and two sons, Ernest and Wilmer, were born to them in Quebec. Some years later a daughter, Margaret, was born in Edmonton, Alberta.

In 1908 Mr. Rae decided to come to Alberta to claim the South African scrip, a half section of land of his choice in Alberta, awarded to him for his services in the Boer War. A scrip was really a government document awarding the property but the land was known as scrip land. Mr. Rae brought a boxcar load of settlers effects of furniture, buggy, a few horses and cattle, and machinery to Strathcona where they were unloaded. His brother-in-law, sixteen year-old Herb Campbell, accompanied him in the boxcar to help care for the livestock. Although only two people were officially permitted to travel in the boxcar, Bert Clelland, from the same area in Quebec, also came with them. Fred Pyle Sr. from Hensal, Ontario, who had brought a carload of horses to Winnipeg,



Mr. and Mrs. J.G. Rae comparing the height of wheat.

joined them there. Ingenious ways to keep out of sight of the authorities were thought up. A big box was built over a three-quarter bed and used as a refuge. Ernest Rae remembers the box being used later in the barn to hold oats.

Mrs. Rae, the two boys, seven and six years, and Mrs. Ruby (Bert) Clelland came to Strathcona on an excursion train. That first year in Strathcona the Raes and Clellands lived in the original south side C.P.R. station that had by that time been made into apartments and all dwellings had barns.

Hay, sufficient to winter the livestock, was cut with scythes from the area where the Salisbury School was built. The first fall and winter Mr. Rae worked as a farrier for seven dollars a day, Bert Clelland worked in the coal mines and Fred Pyle plied his trade as a bricklayer.

In the spring of 1909 Jack Rae drove from Edmonton by team to the scrip land he had chosen, south half 22-45-9 in what later became the Albert District. Mrs. Rae and boys travelled by train to Irma. The Raes lived in a sod house and tent on a neighbor's homestead until a house was built on the scrip. The first water they used was slough water, boiled and strained. Later they dug a well near a slough and got plenty of good water. The first bored well on the scrip with good water was put down by Art Ambler, son of Dave Ambler.

For several years until the scrip was proved up, the Raes spent the winters in Edmonton or Strathcona and the spring and summer on the farm. While in Edmonton the boys went to school. The first school they attended was above the Douglas Store on 104 St. and 82 Ave.

After the scrip was proved up the Raes remained in Edmonton for some years where Mr. Rae plied his trade as a farrier. He had lots of work as Edmonton was growing fast and shod horses and mules were used for the work. Mr. Rae had a shop on 104 St. south of 82 Ave. on the spot now used by the Southside Army and Navy Store as a parking lot. The farm during this time was rented to Herb Campbell who by now had homesteaded the northeast quarter 30-47-10 which he later sold to Colonel Rohrer.

Flax and wheat were grown fairly extensively in those early days. The flax straw being the best straw for fuel in

getting up steam in the steam engines of the first threshing machines.

In 1914, after loading all their effects on a train car to return to the scrip to farm, the land was sold to Mr. Alex McRoberts for \$3000 on time.

The Raes then moved closer to Irma where they rented for two years the farm later known as the Joshua Hubb's place and here lived in a log house. This was north of the Herbert place which is now owned by Gordon Thurston. Mr. Rae then bought the Roy Curfman homestead, where Blaine Copeland now lives, and from there the two boys walked to Irma to school. Mr. Rae sold the Curfman homestead to Arnold Christenson and made a profit of \$400. In 1920 Mr. Rae bought the Wakefield place, southeast quarter 36-45-10 and lived on the Harry Burkholder homestead while they built the house on their farm.



Crew building granaries. Jack Rae, Johnny McLean, Wm. Walker, Wilmer Rae.

Mr. and Mrs. Rae lived to enjoy many years on the farm. In the summer of 1961 they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with open house for their relatives and friends in their son's home on the farm.

Mr. Rae passed away in 1962 at the Colonel Mewburn Hospital.

Mrs. Rae spent another year on the farm after Mr. Rae's passing before going to reside in Vialta Lodge, Viking, for ten years. She was a devoted Women's Institute member for many years. She had endured the hardships of pioneer life, had bounced back from two cancer operations and lived to attend her son, Ernest's and his wife, Jean's 50th wedding anniversary celebration. She passed away in August of 1975 in her 93rd year.

WILMER RAE FAMILY

Wilmer was born in Hemmingford, Quebec and came west with his family in early 1900. He attended school at Irma.

In the spring of 1929 Kathleen Ricks came with her

parents to the Kinsella area. She attended school at Diamond Willow. In 1933 she came to Irma to work for Mrs. Percy Jones. Kay met Wilmer at a Vimy dance and they were married in 1937. They made their home on a



Wilmer Rae family. Wilmer, Kathleen holding baby Brian, Bob, Ron and Russell.

farm west of Irma. To this union four boys were born. The children attended Irma school.

Robert has two sons and lives at Fort McMurray. Ronald married Margaret Erikson of Irma and they have four children, Nadine, Donna, Diane and Blaine. Ronald has managed the Co-op Service centre in Wainwright for fifteen years. Margaret works in the Wainwright Treasury Branch.

Brian married Patricia Veenstra of Irma and they have a son Tyler. Brian is the meat manager at Patterson's store in Wainwright.

Russell is not married. He lives in Wainwright and works for E.J. Oil.

Wilmer and Kathleen retired to Wainwright where Wilmer passed away in 1978. Kay continues to live there where she is active in the Anglican Church and lawn bowling.

THE CLAUDE ANDREW RAMSAY FAMILY

Claude Andrew Ramsay was born in the Albert School District at his parental home on December 26, 1912. This home was a sod structure, which many years later was used as a hog's house. Claude was the third son of a family of five boys and three girls. He attended the Albert School just over two miles south of his home. He advanced his education by attending the Vermilion Agricultural School, taking many subjects which were of great help to him in later years.

Claude farmed with his father and brothers, Raymond, Willie and Gordon. Claude had some land of his own in the area. He was active on the Albert Hockey team. He was a member of the United Farmers of Alberta, which

later became the Federated Union of Farmers. When the Albert Community League was formed, he was a member of that. For years he ran the threshing outfit that the Ramsay's owned, and in the fall this outfit threshed crops for the neighbours.

In 1944 Claude married Betty Allen, a neighbour's daughter. When I entered the family, I was in the Canadian Women's Army Corp. stationed at Saskatoon. I had enlisted in Calgary, took my basic training at Vermilion, and was sent to Winnipeg for a clerk typist course. While at Saskatoon, I took a stenographer's course. I had been home for a furlough the fall of 1944, and when we decided to get married, there was not enough of my leave left to get Army "consent", so- we got married without it. The Commanding Officer took a dim view of this, so that when my posting came up in Dec. of that year, instead of getting a Vancouver posting as I had asked for, I was shipped to Ottawa, Ontario. I was in the Army till late spring of 1945. My most memorable furlough in the Army was a 96 hour leave from Ottawa to Conway, New Hampshire, U.S.A. where I met many of my mother-in-laws relatives, the Richardsons. During the summer of 1945 we lived with Claude's parents. Our house was being built in the farmyard and into it went windows and doors which my father, E.B. Allen had taken from our house when we left the Chinook District in southern Alberta in 1937. That just goes to show you that if you keep something long enough it will come to some use later in life!! We moved into that house for our first wedding anniversary in November 1945. Before the end of that year, the rural electricity came by. What a boom that was to rural life.



*Claude and Betty
Ramsay, 1947.*

To our marriage were born four children- Bob in 1946, Claudia in 1947, Patricia in 1949 and Thomas in 1953. The three elder ones attended the Albert School, which about this time was enlarged to a Consolidated School. My brother, John Allen was on the Wainwright School Board at the time, and was instrumental in having several schools brought into the Albert District.

We joined the Circle A Square Dance club with Henry Lien and his wife Gladys as our callers. I was "reporter"

for the club, and sent word of our activities to Henry for broadcast over the Camrose radio station. Somewhere along my life, I was blessed with some poetic ability, so my reports were always in poetry form. I was a charter member of the Buffalo Coulee Women's Institute, and held the office of Secretary, President, and convenorship of Health, Citizenship and Agriculture.

When Mrs. Ella McRoberts retired as Secretary of the North Irma Mutual Telephone Company, I took over that job. The meetings were held at our home, with Erle Prior and Bob Lukens as our "trouble shooters". I think the Directors were Bob Lukens, L.H. Barss and L. Savage.

Our lives were devoted to farming, but we did have some very happy and memorable times socially. When girls in the District got married, there was always a "bridal shower" to go to. If these were not held in a home, then we gathered at the school. One shower I remember going to at the Ramsay's was for Mildred Bjork, but it turned out to be a double affair which included a shower for me also. When a neighbour needed help, the farmers banded together with their equipment to help out. One "bee" was held to help out Archie Fleming when he hurt his hand, and one for the Hardy's on the death of a daughter. I recall once having promised Goldie Larson that I'd help her paper her living room. She picked a Saturday to do it. I had my bread in pans when she called. Claude had gone there to have Erling do some welding. She thought it would be a good day for the job. She solved my problem of bread baking by sending Robin Johnson for me, so we loaded the pans of bread and the kids in his vehicle and went to Larsons. Between looking after half a dozen kids, making meals, baking bread, and feeding men, we got the wall papering done by supper time. An enjoyable evening was spent over a few games of cards.

Card parties at the school were a way to pass the time in the winter. After the cards the Larson orchestra played for a dance and a midnight lunch was always served by the ladies of the district.

Claude took ill early in 1958 and after some time in the Mannville hospital, he spent 3 months at the University Hospital in Edmonton. He passed away May 26, 1958. August of that year I moved to Mannville where I lived for one year. By Sept. 1959 I had moved to Edmonton and started a sewing business from my home, so that I could support my four children, and still be home to Mother them. I had that business for 11 years. My four children went through all grades, with Bob going on to Northern Alberta Institute of Technology for a mechanics course. Claudia went to Marvel Hair Dressing for a course then to Alberta College for a secretarial course. Patricia went from High School to work as a clerk at Hansen Laboratories. Thomas took a carpenter course at N.A.I.T.

In 1969 I married John M. Thompson. He was a nephew of the McCauley Bros. who had a blacksmith shop at Mannville in the early days. We moved to the Yukon in 1971 and returned to Edmonton in 1980. John worked for the Territorial Gov't as a grader operator. Upon our return to Edmonton, we managed apartments till 1982 when we managed a Seniors' Residence. In 1983

John retired and we now live in a Senior's Cottage complex.

Patricia married Dennis Merriam in 1968 and later bought the house I had lived in. Dennis works for a Crane Firm in the city. They have two boys, Brian and Keith. All of that family belong to Fish and Game clubs as they are sports-minded.

Bob married in 1974 and moved to Red Deer the next year. He has a country acreage where he raises quarter-horses, as a hobby. Thomas married Donna Richardson in 1979, and they now have one daughter Sarah.

Claudia went to work for the Alberta Gov't in 1969 and is still working in the Apprenticeship branch. She had worked her way up to office manager.

Although Patricia has not worked since she was married, she puts a lot of time in for community work. She is active in their game clubs and in the Diabetic Association, since Brian is a diabetic. We have fond memories of people we knew in the Albert and Irma Districts. The fall of 1983 was most memorable to us as a Ramsay Family reunion was held at Albert School where over 60 people gathered for the first time in over 25 years.

*We have learned we get the most out of life
If we "give" of ourselves on the way.
We can look back on the happy times
And know that "giving" really does pay.*

WILLIAM D. RAMSAY

I, William D. Ramsay, was born in Fortune Cove, Prince Edward Island, in the year of 1876, and in 1905 I married Bessie A. Richardson of Conway, New Hampshire. In the spring of 1910 I came to Alberta bringing my wife and two sons with me. I stayed in Edmonton one year and in the fall of 1910 I filed on my homestead. In the spring of 1911 I came to the Albert District.

The spring of 1911 the people of the district got together a school board and wrote to the Department of Education to have a school built. In the summer of 1911 they built the first Albert School. Mr. E.J. Jones, Herbert Oakley and myself were on the school board.

There were Mr. and Mrs. George Ambler; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pyle; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cail; Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Fleming and John Fleming; Mr. William Matthews; Mr. George Hardy; Mr. L. Hardy; Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Jones; Mr. Bill Williams and Mr. Roy Hay were the four neighbors we had as well as Mr. John Barss and his sons.

In later years we had a U.F.A. Local formed here with about forty members. We used to hold card parties in the school through the wintertime and always had a picnic every year. We used to go once a week to first one and then the other neighbors' houses for a party. We had some nice times to remember in our olden days.

In 1922 I was elected as Councillor in Minburn Municipality No. 453. Later the number was changed to Minburn No. 72. I was on the council for twenty-five years.

In our years of homesteading our family increased to eight children.

Raymond married and he and Ruth lived in Irma for several years. They later moved to Ponoka where Ruth



Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Ramsay on their 50th wedding anniversary, September 26th, 1955.

passed away. Raymond and Ruth had eight children. Raymond travels around making his home with his children.

William or "Bill" married Ann Peterson and they live in Calgary. They have five children. Claude married Betty Allen and to this union were born four children.

Gordon married Leila Nash and they live on the home farm. Gordon and Leila have one son Bill.

Marian married Robert Lukens and have two children Donald and Maureen.

Margaret married Allan Emmott and they live in Mannville. They have two children.

Myrtle married Doug MacKenzie and they live in Edmonton. They have two children.

Donald was in the R.C.A.F. He married a girl from British Columbia and had four children. They live in Kelowna.

Mrs. Ramsay was a member of Albert W.I. and Buffalo Coulee W.I. In 1955 they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with friends and neighbors. Mrs. Ramsay's mother from Conway, New Hampshire was present to help make the occasion more enjoyable. Mrs. Ramsay passed away in 1961 and Mr. Ramsay died in 1958, both in Mannville Hospital. Both are buried in the Irma cemetery.

THE HARRY RAWLUK STORY

In 1932 Mr. and Mrs. Rawluk with their children, William, John, George, Mary, Nick and Mike settled in the Metropolitan District south of Jarrow. Mr. Rawluk had worked as a coal miner in Coleman for several years but due to ill health decided a move to the farm, would be healthier for him and offer more opportunities for his family.

Mr. Rawluk, with sons William and John, came by boxcar with a load of belongings. They brought a cow and calf, four horses, furniture and lumber from a

building they had bought and dismantled, this lumber to be used for their house on the farm. The farm they settled on was unproved C.P.R. land. Their task was building their home. While it was being built they stayed with their relatives, the Onyschucks. When it was complete they made a barn and chicken house, these were dug into the hillside and the fronts were poles and straw.

The north half of section 35 was open range for several years after the Rawlucks settled on the south half. One hill on the N.W. quarter is remembered by many for the ball games that were enjoyed there many a Sunday afternoon. The young people of the district would gather and choose up sides and with a pile of brush for a backstop, the game would be underway. Everyone joined in and a good time was enjoyed by all.

George Rawluk purchased the N.W. quarter of 35 in 1947 and Arthur Carter purchased the N.E. quarter the same year. The road along the north side of this section was opened up in 1963 providing a shorter route to Kinsella.

Mr. and Mrs. Rawluk moved to Burnaby, B.C. in 1947. It wasn't really a retirement though, for several years they had a large raspberry patch with berries for sale, they also kept laying hens. They graded their own eggs and supplied the neighbors' needs. After a few years they gave up the chickens and berries. Their lawn and flowers were their hobby and a beauty spot on their street. Mr. Rawluk passed away in 1966. Mrs. Rawluk now lives in Dania Manor, a senior's home not far from the home they enjoyed so much.



Mr. and Mrs. Rawluk on their 50th Anniversary: Nick, William, Mary, George, and Mike.

William married Muriel Carter and they moved onto the Burrows' farm which they purchased. This is located one half mile south of the homeplace and they still reside there. They have a family of four, Marjorie, Pat, Brian and Sheila. Marjorie married Zane Parsons. They farm north of Sedgewick and have two daughters and a son. Pat married Erik Grevlund. They live in Vancouver with their son and daughter. Brian farms and resides in the district. He married Mary Lou Black and they have three

children. Sheila married Lloyd Tanton also a local farmer. He passed away in 1977 and Sheila continues to reside on their farm north of Lougheed with their five children.

John moved to Vancouver in the early forties. There he met and married his wife Bernice. They have four children; Marlene, Gary, Randy and Michael. John passed away in 1954. The children are all married and live in Williams Lake, B.C.

Mary married Ambrose Firkus, a local farmer. They have two sons Ronnie and Gordon and four stepchildren; Albert, Clifford, Joyce and Keith. Ambrose and Mary retired to Chilliwack in 1957 where Mary still resides. Ambrose passed away in 1966.

George took over the family farm. He, along with Mike, batched for a while then in 1949 he married Yvonne Carter. They built a new home in 1955 and have made their home there ever since. The original house was bought by Clarence Borgel and moved north of Killam. Since then it has been moved again and is used as a summer home by the Everett Lancasters. The George Rawlucks have four children: Dennis, Linda, Colleen and Kenneth. Dennis lives in Vancouver and works for "International Paper" in Richmond. Linda married Tom Cookson in 1977 and they live in their new home on their farm south of Lougheed. Linda nurses in the Killam Hospital. Colleen married Alan Probst in 1981. They live in Lougheed and she continues to work in Killam. Kenneth is taking a course at Olds College and plans to farm. George passed away in 1982.

Nick joined the Air Force where he served for many years. While in Edmonton he met his wife Lillian Giese. During the years they made their home in Germany, Ontario and British Columbia. Nick is now retired from the Air Force and they live in Edmonton. They have three children; Dwayne of Edmonton, Sharon of B.C. and Darryl who resides with his wife Trish and two sons in Tasu, B.C.

In 1952 Mike married Shirley Carter. They farm about four miles south of their parents' home farm. They have four children: Doug, Joanne, Barry and Greg. Doug lives in Wainwright where he works as a government assessor, Joanne is a nurse. She is married to Terry Brady of Grande Centre where they reside. Barry and Greg work in the district. Doug married Sherri Eisner in 1983.

The Rawluk family has certainly grown since they settled in the district in 1932. When they gather together there's fun for one and all.



Francis Bovencamp, Mrs. Comley, Ronnie Firkus, Viola Bovencamp, David Russell, Wilma Bovencamp, Marjorie, Brian, Pat Rawluk, Gordon Firkus.

LEWIS REBER

Lewis Reber was born in Iowa in 1906. He came to Canada with his parents, his six brothers and his sister and they lived at Rosalind, Alberta, with his grandfather, until some land could be broken and a house built on their homestead north of Hardisty. In 1914 they moved to their new home.

Helen Szoke was born in Cleveland, Ohio, the daughter of Sam and Rose Szoke. They came to Canada in 1911 when she was a year and a half of age. At age seventeen Helen cooked for threshers in Res Darkes' cook car. One fall while threshing for Charlie Miller, it rained several days and the Miller kids became great friends of Helen. She was an excellent cook.



25th anniversary Lew and Helen Reber, 1947.

Lew and Helen were married April 15th, 1929 and for a short time lived on a farm northwest of Irma. Later they moved to the Lewisville district. Three children Phoebe, Florence and Raymond were born to them.

In 1945 the Rebers moved to a farm at Rosalind. Lew passed away in 1966. Raymond passed away in 1978. Helen moved into Stoney Creek Lodge after Ray's death and has resided there ever since. Later Helen married Frances Gabourie of Camrose. She passed away in December 1983.

CHARLES AND DOROTHY REED

In 1906 my Grandfather, William Reed, and family came to Strathcona, now South Edmonton, from Marshall, Missouri, U.S.A. Here he rented farmland. Later in 1906 Grandfather and Uncles Guy and John each filed on homesteads in the Strawberry Plains area. Grandfather's was the N.W. 12-45-9, Uncle Guy's N.E. 12-45-9, and Uncle John's the S.E. 12-45-9-4. My father, Charles, couldn't file on a homestead at that time because he wasn't old enough. After filing on the homesteads they continued to farm at Strathcona until 1907 when they returned to the homestead. In 1907 Dad filed on the N.E. of 10-45-9-4. This farm was in the Glenholm area. Dad spent most of his time on a farm in the Strawberry Plains district. Miss Olive Bear came from Missouri to visit her sister Mrs. Bob Mitchell. While here

she met Charles Reed and in due course of time they were married. To this union there were four children - Charles Jr., Olive, Dora May and George.

I started to school at Glenholm in the spring of 1922. Miss Watt was the teacher at that time to the end of the term. Mrs. Carl Christenson, Mabel McDonald, was the next teacher. She drove to school in a two wheeled cart and would give me a ride to and from school. Glenholm school was built on a hill. The road to the gate, which was below the hill, was rocky. On this particular day as we were driving down the hill to the gate a piece of the cart broke and fell off. It hit the horse. The horse, being startled, ran down the hill, slipped and slid through the gate in a sitting position. Mrs. Christenson told me to jump but I hung on for dear life. Neither of us were hurt.

Dad's health wasn't good. After four operations he went to the U.S.A. for further treatment. He passed away at the home of his brother and sister, George and May Reed, of Ponco City, Oklahoma. He was buried in the family plot at Marshall Missouri in 1928.

After Dad's passing Mother and we children moved to the Peterson house in the Strawberry Plains District so we would be closer to school. Well, wouldn't you know it the school burned the night we moved to the Peterson house. Part of the house was our home and the other part became the school until a new one was built. We really were closer to school.

I went to Edmonton to work in the coal mine in the early forties. While working at the Black Diamond mine I met my future wife, Dorothy Heathman. Dorothy had come from the Peace River and was working at a beauty parlor on 118 Ave. and Fort Road. We were married two days before I enlisted in the Army in 1942. Later in 1942 I was back at work in the mine at Edmonton. We continued to live and work in Edmonton until the Spring of 1948 when we returned to Irma.



Charles, Dorothy Reed and son Lyle.

I worked for Clifford Smallwood for a year. I then went to Forestbourg and worked in the mine there. Here I worked underground. Uncle John had the lease on this land but in 1950 this lease was taken over by the Diplomat Mine company.

From 1950-56 we farmed on Uncle Guy's homestead (N.E. 12-45-9-4). We moved to Irma in 1956. Dorothy, being a hairdresser, continued her business in our home

for sometime. I took a job as road-grader for the Wainwright Municipality. I worked at this for twenty years and now I'm retired. Dorothy gave up the hair-dressing business and joined the Post Office Staff as Assistant Postmistress. She retired in March 1984.

We have two children. Our son, Lyle, is married and lives at St. Paul, Alta. He teaches welding at the Regional School. They have a family of four - two sons and two daughters.

Lois, our daughter, married Gordon Larson. She is a Nurses' Aide at the Wainwright Hospital. They have two daughters and a son.

My brother and sisters are still living. Olive married Arthur Frye. He worked as a Greyhound driver in B.C. They are retired and are living at Cache Creek B.C. Dora May and George both live in Edmonton. Granny Reed, my mother, died in 1968.

I have been called Buster by one and all for most of my life. The only person in this part of Alberta to call me by my proper name, Charles, is my dear wife, Dorothy.

JOHN AND ANNA REITAN

by Kenneth A. Reitan

John (Johan) Ole Reitan was born October 2, 1875 near Decorah, Iowa, to Ole and Ingeborg Reitan. Ole had come from a settlement called Reitan, near Alen in Norway to America in 1867, at the age of 15, with his parents and brother's family. Ole was married to Ingeborg Johnson, and to their family were born two sons, John and Joseph who remained in the U.S.A. From Iowa the family moved to a farm near Brandt, South Dakota. It was to this family farm that John brought his bride Anna, daughter of Christopher and Maren Christenson of Toronto, South Dakota.

To John and Anna were born seven children, Oscar, Marvin, Ida, Arthur, who died in infancy, Alvina, Irvin and Kenneth.

Oscar married in South Dakota, and in 1927 his wife Julia died, leaving two small daughters, Adelaide and Olive, who were raised in our home by my Mother and Father. Oscar came to the Irma district in Canada in 1928, his first job working for Robert and Henry Kasten. Marvin had come to the Irma district in 1926 to visit his Grandmother, Maren Christenson, who had moved to Canada in 1905, first to Bawlf and then to the Sharon district at Irma. In 1928 Marvin was married to Mabel Knudson, daughter of Halsten and Sophia Knudson.

In 1929 times were hard in the States, so our family decided to sell out and move to Canada. In the group were my parents, my older sister Ida and her husband Martin Westly and their two children Arline and Mavis, my sister Alvina, my brother Irvin, Oscar's two daughters Adelaide and Olive, and myself. We journeyed by car from our farm at Brandt, South Dakota, to Canby, Minnesota, then by bus to Minneapolis, and by train to Winnipeg, Manitoba. We arrived there early in the evening and had many hours wait to catch the connecting train, called The Flyer. During that long wait in the station some incidents stay in my mind.

My Mother had bundled some of our more fragile belongings in quilts, which we carried with us. Suddenly



Wedding of John Reitan and Anna Christenson, 1902.

one of the quilt bundles broke, all our gramophone records went rolling across the station floor. Another memory so vivid to a boy of ten years, was the lovely display of pies in the station cafeteria. But because of our shortage of pocket money, I had to leave without sampling those goodies. My Father had built a wooden box, and in it my Mother had packed sufficient food for our entire group of eleven, for the entire trip, which took almost three days.

We arrived at Irma on a cold November night, and were met at the train by my brother Oscar, who had borrowed Jim MacDonald's 1927 Chev truck, and by Uncle Hans Christenson. My Mother rode in the cab and the rest of us with all our belongings rode in the back to Uncle Hans' house in the Sharon district. My Grandfather had died in 1924, and Grandma Christenson made her home with Uncle Hans. That night at dinner we tasted raspberries for the first time.

Our family spent that winter on the MacDonald place, and we attended Glenholm School. In the spring of 1930 we moved to Grandma Christenson's farm where we stayed for three years. Our first crop in Canada was a bumper crop but the wheat sold for 19 cents a bushel, so money was scarce.

That year my brother Oscar bought four Percheron horses to break for driving, and because they were so wild he also bought a goat to keep them company. The goat would run into the barn between their legs, and on more than one occasion got kicked right out of the barn, once losing a horn. But in time the horses were calmed by the presence of the goat, and he could run between them and they enjoyed him. On one occasion Oscar was driving this team to town. My Father decided to go along, but would not sit up on the seat because he did not trust those frisky horses so he sat at the back of the wagon. While driving

down the hill near my Uncle Ludvig Satre's farm, the horses began to run. Father just knew that would happen, and he jumped off, and rolled over and over into the ditch. He never did find the pipe that he had had in his mouth. The family almost convinced him that he had swallowed it.

During this time my sister Alvina was married to Clifford Bruneau, and they had two sons, Raymond and Marvin. Clifford died in 1941.

In 1933 our family moved to Strawberry Plains, where we rented Mrs. Chase's farm. My Father played the violin for some of the dances held in the school. I accompanied him on the accordion. George Dawson played the guitar, and Marshall Dawson played the drums. It was at one of these dances following the annual Christmas concert, that the crowd was swinging in a square dance, when suddenly someone let go, and one of the men slid across the floor on his stomach, and disappeared under the stage. The band couldn't continue for awhile because they were laughing so hard.



Children of John and Anna Reitan. Sons - Oscar, Irvin, Marvin and Kenneth. Daughters - Ida Westly and Alvina Moulder, June, 1950.

In 1936 our family moved to the Dougherty farm in the Melbrae district. In the first year there was a bumper crop, but a killing frost took the crop completely. Because we did not have enough grain for feed, we had to sell our hogs. We received \$75.00 for 25 hogs.

Our next move was to the Moore farm, north of Jarrow, which we rented until my Father passed away in 1943. My Mother lived for a time on a farm my brother Marvin had bought, the Joe Webb place, and then bought a house in the town of Irma, one previously owned by Mr. Reid. My Mother died in 1950. Henning Johnson lives there today.

My brother Oscar died in 1970. His daughters Adelaide who is married to Reg McClements, and Olive, who is married to Alfred Lien, both farm in the Lougheed district. My brother Marvin was killed in a farm accident in 1955. His wife Mabel still lives on the family farm in the Sharon district. My sister Ida died in 1974. Her

husband Martin Westly lives in The Peace Hills Foundation Lodge in Wetaskiwin.

In 1947 my sister Alvina was married to Archie Moulder of the Hardisty district, where they farm, but now live in Sedgewick.

My brother Irvin married Anna Kvigstad of Cadogan, Alberta, and they spent thirty-eight years in the ministry in the Baptist Church. They have now retired, and live in Strome, Alberta.

I married Viola Loxton of Vulcan, Alberta, and we live in Edmonton, where I own a Manufacturer's Agency selling electrical products.

MARVIN REITAN

by Mabel Reitan

Marvin Reitan came to the Irma district from South Dakota in 1926, to visit his Grandma Christenson and other relatives. He met Mabel Knudson and decided to stay in Alberta.

Marvin and Mabel were married in 1928 and began farming; he continued until his death in 1957.

The first years were difficult, when the depression began, the prices were poor, four dollars for pigs, nineteen cents for wheat, five cents for a dozen eggs, but somehow we survived.

We drove with horses and sled to Irma to watch the hockey games, when they had the outdoor rink. One winter in particular there was so much snow and no roads. While driving to Irma for groceries and mail, Marvin had to tie the team to the fence halfway to town, as they were exhausted, then walked the rest of the way. Ludvig Satre and Hans Christenson were with him. There were many incidents which happened during the years, some good and some bad.

We celebrated our twenty-fifth anniversary in 1953, the picture was taken that day.



Marvin and Mabel Reitan - twenty-fifth anniversary.



Walter Renwick home in late 1920's. Clarence, Violet Renwick and Harry Carter.

WALTER RENWICK FAMILY

from Ernest Renwick

Mr. Walter Renwick was born near Woodstock, Ontario. He had seven brothers. He worked for the railroad at Fargo, North Dakota, U.S.A.

In 1905 Mr. and Mrs. Renwick came out to Vermilion where they resided for two years. They spent some time in Edmonton before coming to a homestead at Irma, the N.E. 30-46-9, which is still known as the Renwick quarter. They moved some years later to what was known as the Armstrong place, N.W. 18-46-9, in what later became the Alma Mater district.

The huge house and barn were landmarks for years. In 1981 the present owners saw the necessity to demolish the house.

Mr. and Mrs. Renwick had five children, Lloyd, who moved to Three Hills in 1929 where he farmed and worked in a coal mine. Lloyd and wife Martha had three boys and a girl. Martha is retired and living in Olds.

Dorothy married Charlie Archibald and had two sons, George deceased in June, 1983, and Lawrence; Gladys Hope who now lives with her daughter in Seattle, Clarence who resided on the farm with his parents, later moving to Irma.



Violet Renwick

Violet was born on the homestead, married Elmer Jones and lived in the Alma Mater district for a number of years. They had a daughter Betty Ganie, and a chosen daughter Shirley Lovig. Mr. and Mrs. Renwick had three other chosen children, Ernest, Dorothy and Victor.

Ernest joined the army in 1942 where he was with the Assault Troops in Normandy.

In February, 1944 Mr. Renwick passed away. In 1946 Mrs. Renwick and Clarence moved to town. Ernest returned home in 1946. For sometime he worked for Eatons in New Westminster. He and his wife Martha presently live in Edmonton. Their daughter is a dental assistant in Sherwood Park. Dorothy married Ed. Haugen. They have two children, Dan and Linda. Victor married Dorothy Newman.



Mrs. Haugen Sr., Mrs. W. Renwick, ?.

Mrs. Renwick is remembered for the many times she helped when folk were in need during accident, as a midwife or to help organize young people for singing at Easter or Mother's Day, when church was being held at Alma Mater. She was an accomplished quilt maker. Mr. Renwick is remembered as a kindly man.

As a point of interest, when Irma had the April 13th, 1931 fire, unknown to Mr. Renwick at the time, one of his brothers was the post office inspector.

WILLIAM REVILL FAMILY

by Ena Revill

William Revill came back from the First World War after serving for four and a half years in France. He bought a half section, one mile south of the Clay place, which was 18-48-10 and that was where I, Ena Clay, lived. On December 6th, 1922, we were married and we lived on his farm till 1924 when my folks went to California. We then bought their farm and moved into the house my Dad had owned. In 1934 our daughter, Audrey, was born and in 1943 our son was born. Both these children passed away. Audrey was fifteen years of age (in 1950) and the baby, Clay, was only twelve days old.

During this time we farmed three and a half sections of land.

Bill was a member of the Minburn Municipality for ten years and after that ten years as Reeve. We led a very busy life. I was president of the Rodino W.A. for over twelve years and Bill was president of the Rodino Club for a good many years. I don't remember how long.

Due to Bill's age and failing health, we sold our farm and moved to Calgary where he died in 1976. I bought a home in Calgary the next year, but sold it after a year and moved into Trinity Lodge in Calgary, where I now reside and am very happy here. It is a very beautiful place.

JIM RIBARITIS

by Murle Larson

Our first knowledge of Jim Ribaritis - people of the district pronounced it (Ribbits) was when he came to work for Cap Larson. He later went to work for Rick Larson in the Ross district. Having come from the Ukraine he could speak very little English.

Jim later bought S.W. 28-46-9, the quarter where the Ross school used to be. He farmed only a few years. He had an acute attack of appendicitis and without proper attention, he died in the Wainwright hospital in the forties. George Fischer owns the land today.

DR. ERIC RICHARDSON

Eric was born in Denver, Colorado, U.S.A. Following the death of his father, Ernest Richardson, Eric and his mother moved to Colborne, Ontario.

In 1914 his mother married Fred Higginson, one of our earliest homesteaders, and came to Irma to make their home. Eric got his elementary education at Sunny Brae school, his High schooling at Irma H.S.

He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Alberta, Edmonton in 1931. For two years he interned at the Royal Alexandra and Isolation Hospitals and later was in the Pathological Department of the University of Alberta.

After his stepfather, Fred Higginson, passed away in the spring of 1934 Eric and his mother returned to Ontario where Eric joined the staff of the hospital at Whitby.

Ill health forced him to retire in 1935. He and his wife, formerly Elizabeth Walton of Toronto, then made their home at Simcoe, Ont. He passed away late in 1937.

Eric always had a keen sense of humor. One particular "crack" was made when a group of we young folk were on our way to a house party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M.D. Askin. Just as we were passing the home of Geo. Sawyer - now the home of Mrs. Wyand - Eric exclaimed, "Gee, Irma is all lit up tonight! The lights are on - both of them!"

True, there were only two street lights in Irma. They were operated from a Delco Plant located in the garage that is now part of the New Horizons-Drop-In-Centre.

Eric was one of our many H.S. graduates who went on to a very successful career and no doubt would have made a great contribution in the Medical field had his health not failed.

CARL RIDDLE FAMILY

by Margaret (Riddle) McMann

Carl Riddle was born in Iowa, U.S.A. in 1889. He moved with his family to Carstairs, Alberta forty miles north of Calgary.

In 1916 he married Maude Agatha Hays who came with her family to Carstairs from Missouri, U.S.A. when she was a child. The young couple took up a homestead twenty miles north of Irma and lived in a one room sod shack for two and a half years. Their first child was born there.

They had brought two oxen with them. To travel to town with a team of horses was a treat. A hard winter hit in 1918-1919. Due to shortage of feed and heavy snow they lost some cattle. After two and a half years they bought a farm from Art Blakely N.W. 18-47-7-W4th, which had only a small log house on it. Soon a seven room two-storey house was purchased from Jim Thompson and moved to the former Blakely homestead.

Sad to say the house, which was my mother's pride and joy, burned to the ground in January, 1925. I will never forget that terrible cold winter day. Our mother took Howard, myself and baby Kathleen, one and one-half years, out to the barn and kept us safely inside out of the cold. At the same time my Dad was trying to rescue some possessions from the burning house and he almost suffocated from the smoke. Our neighbor (Jack Balentine's father) came with horses and sleigh and took us all to their home. We stayed with them until we got a place to live. My brother, Howard, went with Jack and Helen to school by horse and cutter.

They rented the Linberg half section two and a half miles north and west of his own land. It only had a Hudson Bay house, and there they raised their six children. The depression hit and they couldn't afford to build on his own land. However he farmed both places.

We remember one year Dad had a sixty bushel per acre crop, but being the first on the threshing ring the year previous, this put him last at this particular time. As a result, just as the rack fulls were pulling in, a storm came up bringing rain turning to snow, which stayed until spring. The stooks were frozen to the ground so hauling feed for the stock meant taking out an axe, a shovel and a fork.



R.L. Shotts and Carl Riddle.

It was very unusual and thrilling when Dad took us for a few days holiday. We usually went to Calgary to visit our relatives at the Hays Dairy at Turner Siding, the southern edge of the city now called "Hays Borough". The city has grown around it and it is now centralized. We used to run through the huge dairy barns and premises - such a contrast to our place twenty miles from Irma, as it was quite off the road there.

I remember in 1938 my mother sold her shares in Hays and Company for five hundred dollars to the late Senator Harry Hays, her nephew. Dad used the money to buy our first tractor.

We children rode horseback three and a half miles to Orbindale school. I remember one winter my pinto pony "Dextor" got stuck in the snow. I had to walk home, get a shovel and shovel him out. Babe Prior came out of the school to take my pony to the barn. He said it was fifty-two degrees below and seemed surprised to see me.

Through all this and the ups and downs of those years, my dad could always whistle and sing. The family worked hard, but had a very happy life together.

My dad and mother were great neighbors, they were always willing to give a helping hand to someone in need and always boasted about the wonderful neighbors they had. My dad loved to play checkers with a few "sharks" like Mr. Roy Shotts and Steve Thompson and others. It was common to hear one whistling one tune and another whistling a different tune at the same time while they were playing.

The Shotts family were very close to us. We had our Christmas and New Year's dinners together for seventeen consecutive years.

My parents were grief stricken when they lost their third child, a healthy girl nine months old. She got the flu and passed away in my mother's arms. At the same time my dad was in bed with blood poisoning from a rusty nail he had run into his foot. He couldn't attend her funeral in Wainwright. Mrs. Jack Marshall made her casket out of a wooden apple box.

Then in January, 1941 we were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of my brother Howard. He was as my mother called him "a natural born musician". He could play any instrument he put his hands on and had never taken a lesson. He played any piece he knew on the violin at eight years of age and played a mouth organ and sang at age two. He sang over C.F.C.N. Radio Station, Calgary for one year when he was seventeen and composed a lot of his own songs, but he had to return home to help on the farm. His loss was a terrible shock to the whole community, as, besides being such a loving son and brother, he was a friend to all who knew him. At the time it seemed impossible to endure, especially for my mother.

In 1944 the farm was sold to Eugene Vallee, at which time the Riddles moved to Wainwright and bought the Patterson house on Main Street. We lost our mother in 1955 and our father in 1962.

In 1946 I married Harold McMann of Wainwright. We had six children. They are all married except our youngest son, Cecil, who is now engaged. We have fourteen grandchildren ranging in age from fourteen years down to nine months. Needless to say, they are our

pride and joy!

My sister Kay (Kathleen) Schram passed away in 1968 leaving her husband Elmer and five children. Her eldest daughter, Bonnie Veitch and youngest son Kenneth are the only ones of the Schrams in Wainwright. Bonnie and Brian have three sons. Kenneth is employed at Wain Alta Motors.

My brother, Claude, lives at Barrhead, Alberta. He and Mabel have five children and three grandchildren.

My sister, Florence Mazeppa lives in Edmonton. She and Steve have one son.

We have five very successful marriages. All of them are doing very well. We feel we have been blessed in many ways and I thank God for it all.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES RILEY

by Lois Jack

My Grandfather C.A. Riley, left his home in Lenexia, Kansas in 1912 to find a new home in Canada, settling in Alberta in the Castor district. He arrived with a carload of settlers' effects, including two teams of mules. He picked Castor because his sister Margaret Coppock and her husband had already settled there.

My Grandmother and her two daughters, Nellie and Anna, arrived by train later. Anna remained but Nellie went back after helping them get settled. They lived near Castor for two years, then they moved to the former James Bronson farm which they bought. It was situated about halfway between Irma and Hardisty.

Nellie was Mrs. J.B. Horn and later Anna married Ross McFarland, owner of the general store in Irma.

Granddad and Grandma spent the remaining years on their farm. Granddad used his mules to do his farming. There was no such thing as a tractor in his book then, although he did have some horses later. He was very proud of his mules, Bob, Sam, Kate, and Della, and they served him well. They did the farm work plus a daily trip to the well for water.

Their house was up on the hill and the well about half a mile away down by the lake. One of the mules was hitched to the stoneboat with a barrel on it and away they went down the hill to get their daily water supply for drinking and house use. Their home was always open to neighbors or travellers for a cup of tea or a meal.

Granddad was chairman of the Bronson (later Silver Lane) school for several years.

He helped to start the rural telephone service north of Hardisty. There were not many phones those days and theirs was the end of the line between Hardisty and Irma for years, and the neighbors used it whenever they needed to phone.

In the spring of 1920 my Mother, Nellie Horn Scott, came back to Canada with my two brothers Donald, Bill and myself, and we lived in a house down by the lake (right beside the well). My Dad, Jesse Horn, was a teacher and came when the school term was over.

He went to Normal School and got his Alberta teacher's certificate. He taught at Silver Lane for several years. While there he started a Literary Society, and the programs were enjoyed by everyone, even those who took part.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Riley and his sister Madge.

There was a "Stuff and Grunt" club also which was enjoyed by everyone in the neighborhood. It was a weekly "pot luck" dinner held in the homes of the neighbors and a special outing for the winter. Many enjoyable times helped shorten the long winter evenings with cards after a delicious meal.

The Silver Lane school was kept open until there were only five pupils left. Then it was closed and those children were taken to Irma daily to attend school there.

My Grandmother died in 1939 and Grandfather in 1943.

HARRY RILEY

At age eighty-six it is a bit difficult to recall much of what happened in the previous years. Also the question arises where to start and what to record or leave out. Perhaps I should not, but I am going back a little further than the day I arrived in Canada. In 1917 I trained as an infantry soldier in the 3rd Batt. Kings own regiment at a camp near Harwich, England, and on the 1st of January, 1918 was a member of a draft that sailed from Folkstone to Boulogne, France. Replacements were placed wherever needed at that time and most of our draft were transferred to the 10th Lincolnshire Reg. who formed part of the 34th Div. identified by a checkerboard sign. This division was commanded by a Gen. Nickolsen and formed part of the 6th Corp. 3rd Army, and were in the front line when the German Army started their big March 21st offensive somewhere in the region of Groiselles.

Later the 34th Div. were moved to a supposedly quiet part of the front near Armentiers, but on the 9th of April the Germans attacked again at a part of the line held by a Portugese division. There was another German advance and the civilian population were fleeing to a safer part of the country with what belongings they had time to collect.

The roads were jammed with civilian and army personnel and ammunition dumps were in flames at the side of the road, a very demoralizing state of affairs. The Germans put on a very heavy gas attack near Armentiers at that time. On the 16th of July the division went by train from a point near Calais to help the French army

northeast of Paris where the Germans had broken through. This was near Chantilly the region where the French held their horse races, and there were many beautiful French Chateaux. We were billeted one night in the very large hall of one of them which also housed a magnificent coach. The 34th division were back in northern France on the 11th of November when a strange but welcome silence fell over the entire front line. The armistice had been declared. The 34th division started to move into Germany and we hoped to reach Cologne, but became stalled at Riviere on the banks of the River Meuse between Namur and Dinant. We spent a rather poor Christmas Day there. The food was not good, but as the war was over no one complained.

It was from Riviere that I received notice that I could be demobilized. I was a bit disappointed as I would like to have continued into Germany. I, with other demobilized members of the division, boarded a train bound for Le Havre from which port we sailed to Southampton, and put foot on English soil again, for me after a year's absence.

After the war ended there was much unemployment as could be expected with so many returning to civilian life and no longer any need to turn out 'munitions of war. Before the war I was employed as a chemist in the laboratory of an Iron Works with four blast furnaces making pig iron. I returned to the same job on being discharged from the army. Working in a stuffy laboratory with at times chemical fumes floating around, was not my idea of a healthy life even if the hours were good 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., one hour time off for the noon meal. So when the C.N. Railway agency in London advertised that they would guarantee a job on a Prairie farm, even for the inexperienced, I decided I would go to Canada. The Railway Company gave out, at intervals, twelve booklets which painted a rosy picture of the possibilities of farm life on the Prairies.

On the 19th of March, 1926, I and many other men embarked at Liverpool on the Cunard Liner Antonia bound for Halifax. We arrived after a rather stormy voyage and were put on a special train bound for Winnipeg. At the station on our arrival we found a C.N. agent with a list of farmers wanting hired men. The name of the farmer, his nearest village or town and the wages offered were all the information given. One picked blindly and I found myself on the way to the village of Harris, Saskatchewan. On arrival I was told that my future employer lived eighteen and one-half miles north of town, and on phoning him, he informed me that a neighbour would be in to pick me up next day.

There had been practically no snow during the winter and farmers had been using wheels at the time for travel. Next day my transport arrived just before noon in the form of a team and wagon. On making contact, the driver and I had lunch together and I expected that soon after that he would get the team out of the livery barn and we would set out on our journey. However, he kept postponing the start. The reason I eventually discovered was that he wanted to purchase a bottle of whiskey, a supply of which was expected on the late afternoon train from Saskatoon.

We finally got started over the rough roads with the

temperature about zero F., and in my English oxfords my feet became so cold I had to walk behind at times to keep them from freezing. Meanwhile my driver took more and more frequent sips from the bottle and became happier as the journey continued, also he was wearing a warm buffalo coat. I was glad of that coat; spread over the two of us when we slept together that night, in an unheated attic bedroom.

My employer was an old man whose wife had died during the winter and his married son had left to work in Saskatoon. I had intensive training in driving horses, feeding them and other livestock, and all other chores connected with farm life. The meals were very simple and I had to consume a lot of eggs.

This part of Saskatchewan was a good level, free from rock, farming area, with no trees, except those planted around some of the farms. On the more sandy land where I was situated, the soil drifted when the wind blew and the snow drifted in the winter. There were plenty rabbits, coyotes and prairie chickens in the district and a coulee to cross on the way to Harris, similar to the one at Fabyan, but no river. I was supposed to receive thirty dollars a month until the 1st of November, but never got a nickel until I had hauled the wheat crop to town in a sixty bushel wagon box, first on wheels and then on a sleigh when the snow came about the middle of November in the form of a sudden blizzard. This was the only real blizzard I ever experienced when the wind literally howled and the temperature suddenly dropped to thirty below zero Fahrenheit.

When hauling grain on sleighs over a long distance one's feet became cold and to keep warm one had to walk a good part of the way. The Harris Pool Elevator at that time had no dumping mechanism for sleighs and it was necessary to shovel the grain into the pit with the help of the agent.

On finally receiving most of my wages I decided it was time to look for a different place to work. I had corresponded with the A.C. Charter family who also came to Canada in 1926 to take land at Irma, under the Soldier Settlement Scheme. Mrs. Charter's sister was married to a school friend of mine who enlisted in the navy and was stationed at Portsmouth during the war, the hometown of the Charters. They had two sons Art (Bob) and Phil ages six and four, when they arrived at Irma. The Charters invited me to visit them, so about February 13th, 1927 I boarded the train at Harris and arrived at Irma via Saskatoon about six thirty p.m. I went to the Shaw Hotel to get a room for the night and was greeted by Mrs. A. Fischer who was in charge of the hotel while Mrs. Shaw was on holiday. I remember seeing Orril Fischer (Darling) doing her school homework in the living room. Next morning I set out to find the Charters. I was instructed to go north until I saw the Bert Long windmill and then walk half a mile west. There were numerous trails winding through the bush north of the village and I found myself on the east road going north, instead of the west. I had to walk a mile east from the corner where the Craigs now live, and I eventually came to the farm with the windmill. Bert Long saw me and invited me in for dinner and said his hired man Shorty Denyer would take me over to Charters in the afternoon



Tom Yarr house and barn, 1927.

across the fields on a stoneboat. I was introduced to Bert's mother and his wife May, who had just returned from a holiday in England. She was a nurse there during the first war. While staying with the Charters I heard that Tom Yarr needed a hired man and on interviewing me, he agreed to hire me.

Tom Yarr was a well respected Irishman from Belfast and came to Irma in 1909. He and his brother John homesteaded on the S.1/2 of 10-46 and bought the N.W.1/4. Mrs. Chamberlain owned the N.E. quarter and she kept house for Tom and John for some years before she died about 1924. The Yarrs built a sturdy two story house with three bedrooms and living room and one kitchen, and a large barn built by a man named Walker. At first the brothers kept sheep but in spite of a good page wire fence round the pasture, they encountered too many losses from coyotes, and switched to milk cows and beef cattle. John Yarr joined the Canadian Army in the first war and in 1926 left the farm to start a small business in Winnipeg.

When I joined Tom, he was the owner of one of the few Model T. Ford cars in the district. Before coming to Canada he had been an apprentice in a drugstore in Belfast. In partnership with Bert Long a homemade brush cutter was constructed to be pulled by horses round the bluffs with a crew following to clear away the fallen trees. At that time Indian families also were hired to clear trees from the land, so that the cultivated area could be increased. Previously just the open areas had been ploughed. About this time the Van Slyke breaking plough had been invented. Calvin Goodale and family with three twelve horse outfits did a lot of custom breaking round the country. This was also the time a plague of caterpillars descended on the district, devouring all the leaves off the poplar trees and making life rather miserable for human beings. It was a sad sight to see no leaves on the trees in the summertime.

Getting the breaking ready for seeding with the equipment available at that time was a slow back-breaking task, but usually one was assured of a good crop free from weeds for the first year. Soon the machine companies made breaking plows with power lifts, and I remember Joe Saville doing breaking with a 15-30 International and Bert Long bought a John Deere Model D and plow which was operated by Norman Willerton, who as a young man had come to the Irma district from

Hardisty, and before that England. Norman did some breaking on the Yarr farm, helped by me with an axe when he became stuck on a tough root. I stayed on the Yarr farm until 1935. The early thirties were tough years and during that time we encountered losses from hail and early frosts and a very dry summer, also 'give away' prices for cattle, ten dollars each for good one thousand pound steers. However life was not without its bright moments. Alma Mater School became a centre of entertainment for people of that district. Marjorie Dutton (Fischer) was the teacher at the school and a club was formed and plays were staged in schoolhouses and even in Keifer's hall in the village. There were whist drives and dances and summer picnics to lakes in trucks belonging to Seth Oldham and Bert Nicols. Club members even went to the trouble of buying lumber and erecting a dance floor near the F.T. Thurston farmhouse. Members of that family being strong supporters of the club. Music for the dances was supplied by the Coultman orchestra, and at the schoolhouses by Evelyn Pyle and Ivan Archibald. In 1936 I had an urge to visit the land of my birth again, but before doing so I made an agreement to purchase the 118 acres just north of the village, part of the S.W.1/4 34-45-9 owned by the C.N.R. I made a one hundred dollar down payment to Wm. Masson, agent for the railway. There were about sixteen acres broken and it was rented out and seeded to wheat by Wilmer Rae. I left Irma on a rainy night on the 11:30 p.m. train seen off by Raham the station agent, and Tom Yarr and Arthur Charter.

I stayed the night in Montreal and next morning went on board the C.P.R. Liner *Duchess of Bedford* bound for Liverpool. I spent the summer holiday with members of my family and bought a secondhand Rover car to drive my sister and family round the English Lake district where they had rented a cottage. Instead of returning to Canada in August as planned, I was persuaded to stay in England and I worked for a time on a farm in England, and on a dairy farm where I had to deliver milk each day to the town of Chester, eight miles from the farm.

In 1938 my boat return ticket was about to expire so I decided to sail back to Canada, which I did on the same liner from Liverpool in March. Arriving at Wolf's Cove, Quebec on a lovely sunny day, the ship had to unload a lot of cargo. Having been cleared by immigration authorities, some passengers were allowed to go ashore for four hours. I, with three other male passengers, climbed the hundreds of wooden steps leading from the banks of the St. Lawrence to the Plains of Abraham site of the historic battle between the English, commanded by Wolf, and the French General Montcalm in 1759. We explored the old city and the Chateau Frontenac before returning by the main road to the ship and continuing up the river to Montreal.

I helped A.C. Charter to put in his crop that spring as he, at that time, was delivering milk to the doors of Irma customers. My land was still rented to W. Rae. Later in the year I cut Ted Orton's crop as he was unable to drive horses, having damaged his hand in the pulley of his plow. Calvin Urquhart, recently married to Elizabeth Higginson, helped with the stooking and I also cut his crop. Calvin and Elizabeth did not continue on the farm

and later moved to live in Ontario.

In 1939 when I started living on my small farm, I was visited one day by a tall Swede named Carl Anquist. Carl came to Irma at the time Carbol and White established a Ford Car agency at the garage on the N.E. corner of Main Street. Alf Carbol and Carl both came from the Amisk district, and Carbol brought Carl with him to help in the garage. When the Ford Agency partnership collapsed, Carl decided to launch out on his own and he became agent for John Deere Machinery and the B.A. Oil Company, the Sunburst Motor Coach agency and shipper for the Livestock Co-op. His small office (later enlarged twice) was next to the egg grading station and Steve Hlynka's shoe repair and harness shop on the south side.

Carl wished to sell me a small twenty-five dollar radio, which he did very effectively by going so far as to dig a hole for the aerial post and attaching the lead-in wire to the radio to prove that I could get good reception. The Second World War had started about that time. Carl owned a new half ton Fargo truck and delivered 45 gallon drums of gasoline to his customers. I became his part-time, and eventually his full-time assistant in the delivery service and was soon travelling to farms north, south, east and west of the village over roads far from good, especially the clay roads when it rained.

About 1940 Carl married Myrtle Barnes from Castor. Eventually it became the custom for me to have my midday meal with the Anquists, a great relief from bachelor meals. Later when the Anquist children arrived and they became old enough, I took them with me on the gas hauling trips. This gave Mrs. Anquist a better chance to get on with her household chores. I considered this perhaps a rather dangerous procedure. Fortunately I always managed to return my passengers safely home. Mrs. Anquist was a big help to her husband as a housewife and also in giving a helping hand in the business. Carl sold many John Deere tractors of various models and many farm implements, and was noted for his complete stock of repairs. Refrigerators, washing machines and radios were also part of his stock-in-trade. Before power came to the farms, he supplied 32 volt windchargers and engine generators and introduced propane gas to farmers for use in cookstoves, furnaces, and even for lighting, before natural gas was piped into Irma. Another job in which Carl was involved was the shipping of hogs and cattle through the livestock Co-op, and of course there were bus tickets to be sold to intending travellers and someone always had to meet the bus from Edmonton when it came in about 8:45 p.m.

Carl always insisted on having a morning and afternoon coffee break. He loved to rope in anyone in sight and herd them across the street to Pond's Cafe. Then everyone had to match coins to make the loser pay for everyone's coffee.

Steve Hlynka, owner of the shoe and harness repair shop, was a frequent participant in the coffee breaks, as he was just next door. His son John later became a professor of Pharmacy at the University of British Columbia, and there was also a daughter Olga. Carl was an enthusiastic curler and took part in this winter sport until lameness forced him to stop.



Harry and Winnie Riley, 1967.

Eventually after seeking, in vain, for a cure, he was forced to retire from all his business activities. Carl died in 1966 and unfortunately did not live long enough to see his only daughter, Eileen, married to a pilot in the Canadian Air Force. The Anquists also had three sons, Harold, Gordon and Lorne.

In October, 1949, I ended my bachelor life by marrying Winnifred Reeves, originally from the Mannville district, at that time was housekeeper for Mrs. Gordon (Mabel) Holt. Mrs. Holt's husband had been killed in a tragic farm accident. She had returned to teach at the Irma Public School, and had an infant son Charlie, who needed care while his mother was away teaching. Winnifred was also just starting out as local editor of the Irma Times. Winnifred taught United Church Sunday School for many years and was a C.G.I.T. leader for some time as well. She graded eggs before she married. She was also an artistic cake decorator and performed this service for a large number of local brides, most of them after she was married, and of course she made a special cake for her own wedding. Her position as local editor continued for thirteen years. In those days the package of papers were delivered from the printers by bus from Viking and had to be carried home and the subscriber's name pasted on the front, and out of town papers packaged and addressed to various places. There were about one hundred and twenty outside subscribers, some as far away as the U.S.A., Australia, Ireland, Scotland, India and France.

When this laborious task was done, the bundles were taken to the post office for delivery. Life continued pleasantly on the farm with some livestock, poultry, gardening etc., and I was still working with Carl Anquist and drove home after work with his truck, by this time a Ford Mercury.

In 1955 we decided it was time for a late honeymoon and on the 28th of May we boarded the new Super Continental at Wainwright at 4:20 p.m. Mrs. Ivan Currie, mother of Mrs. Ada Jones and Mrs. Mina Inkin, was also travelling east to visit her brother and was a jolly travelling companion. Those were the days when there was a cookstove at one end of the sleeping car and passengers could take along their own food if they

wished, to sustain them over the fifty hour journey to Montreal. We sailed for Liverpool on the S.S. Captain Cook, a one class boat, and enjoyed a lovely voyage down the St. Lawrence River in perfect weather.

There was hardly any rain in England during our stay, and we had a wonderful time with my relatives in the north and my wife's in the south and seeing Mr. and Mrs. Ted Orton in between. This was the first time my wife had really seen the country of her birth, as she was only two years old when her parents brought her to Canada. We arrived back in Irma just in time to cut our wheat crop. During our stay on the farm we enjoyed having two close neighbouring families. Mr. and Mrs. R.O. Larson bought the E. Elford house and acreage, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Savard bought the Ben Oldham house and seven acres.

Rick Larson still continued to work on his farm for some time, but Charlie's son Jack looked after the Savard farm. The three acres on the west side of the Savard property had a house on it at one time and a bored water well and there were allotment gardens on it. Emil Worth had bought the S.E.1/4 of Section 34, part of which is now the Irma Golf links. He owned a good matched team of black horses, and each spring he plowed the allotments and other gardens in the village and supplied gravel from a pit on the east side of the quarter. He also grew good corn cobs every year in his garden.

When the village required land for water wells and a reservoir and a skating rink, Mr. Savard sold them three acres of his property. In 1955 a concrete cistern was constructed and a wooden pump house was built on the top. This was just about ready to be put into operation when there was a bad accident. Village residents had been inside during the morning inspecting the pump house, but fortunately all had left by twelve noon. Two men remained, one doing some work at the bottom of the reservoir and the construction engineer was standing at the top of steps leading up to the doorway. Suddenly there was a tremendous explosion and pieces of the building flew up high in the air and all that was left were the walls of the concrete reservoir and an unconscious man lying at the bottom and another, the engineer, lying at the bottom of the steps.

I remember Ron Lovig and I carrying a ladder from my farm and putting it into the hole. Eventually the man at the bottom revived enough to be able to crawl up the ladder. The engineer was more seriously hurt and was in hospital for months. The cause of the explosion was a leak of propane from a heater at the bottom of the reservoir, and a spark from the welder the man was using, ignited the explosive mixture of propane and air.

Though retired from the farm, Mr. Savard kept busy helping at the I.H.C. machine agency and the John Deere agency and he hauled fuel for Carl Anquist when I took a holiday. He was a great help to me and took a big part in building a garage and granary for me, and was always ready to lend a hand at threshing time. He developed heart trouble and died in 1977.

About 1958 I rented my farmland to Mr. R.W. Thurston and accepted the position as bookkeeper at the Irma Co-op store, a position I had for thirteen years. In 1962 the Rileys took another voyage to England, and

Carol Matthews (Creasy) did my bookkeeping work while we were away. On the way back we visited again at Grand Bend and London, Ontario, to see my wife's brother and wife and Mr. and Mrs. A. Charter.

After her husband died, Mrs. Savard decided to sell her house and move to B.C. where members of her family lived. I sold my farm to Mr. R.W. Thurston and bought the Savard property. Before moving, we received tremendous help from Mr. and Mrs. Dootson. He helped me with alterations to the living room and she did a lot of cleaning and painting. Mrs. Savard had planted a beautiful perennial garden which we much enjoyed while living at the house. Many games of canasta were played between the Larsons, Dootsons and Rileys during this period.

Life continued quite happily until December 8th when my wife, coming down some steps on her way to church, slipped and fell heavily, breaking her hip. I accompanied her in the ambulance to the Misericordia Hospital where the damage was repaired. I stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Stan Taylor in Edmonton, while my wife was recuperating. In January it was possible to move her by ambulance to the Wainwright hospital for further recovery. Unfortunately she fell one night and broke her wrist, which prevented her from practice walking with a walker. This slowed her recovery and as at that time there was one vacant suite left in the Chacutenah Manor apartments, I decided it wise to apply for it. I moved in some furniture and the place was ready for her to move into when she left the hospital in March, 1978. This could have been almost the end of our activities, but in 1980, with the help of Ron Thurston providing transport to the airport and back, we made one more visit to the land of our birth.

On this 9th day of June, 1982, we are still living in Chacutenah Manor at Irma, a village which has changed tremendously during the fifty-five years since I first saw it. For years I accepted the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. F. Thurston for New Year's dinners as well as New Years' celebrations. Winnifred and I still enjoy a good meal at Ron Thurston's on Christmas Day.



Harry and Winnie Riley in May, 1981.

MR. AND MRS. D.L. ROBERTSON

as told by Eileen Hubman

Mr. Donald R. Robertson was born 1883 the son of a farmer and raised at Science Hill near St. Marys in Ontario, the home of Timothy Eaton and also the home of Arthur Meighan. He left home at the age of sixteen and was on his own from then on. In 1899 he went to British Columbia where he worked in logging camps and lumber mills. He learned stationary engineering and earned his papers for steam-boiler engineering. He worked at the Vancouver shipyards on the first wooden and the first steel ship that was built there and sailed on each on its maiden voyage out of Vancouver Harbour.

In June 1915 he married Helen Haggarty in Vancouver. Here their two children Leslie and Eileen were born.

Mrs. Robertson was born and raised in Wolfestown, Quebec, the youngest of a family of seven. She had lived in New York with an older sister where she took a business course and learned tailoring. In 1902 she moved to Vancouver, B.C. with relatives where she worked as a tailoress.

Mr. and Mrs. Robertson lived in Vancouver until 1921 when shipyard work became scarce and Mr. Robertson decided to try farming. The family moved to Irma and bought the south half of 1-46-9 from a Mr. Jones who had erected needed buildings on the place. Later Mr. Robertson first purchased the Beatty quarter or former homestead of Faucett Graham, then the north half of 1-46-9 from a Mr. Douglas and finally the Loss quarter of 2-46-9.

The farm life was very trying for Mrs. Robertson who, for the first time, had to do without the convenience of running water and electricity and had to cope with the problem of hard well water. However she worked hard, raised a big garden and was a friendly and helpful neighbor. For a number of years she was a very active member of the Irma Women's Institute. One fall she made twenty-four pints of the most perfect crabapple jelly from a box of crabapples supplied by the Institute. This was for sale to raise money for the organization.

In 1943 Mrs. Robertson passed away due to a ruptured appendix.

Mr. Robertson continued to farm until 1944 when he rented out the farm, married Elsie Whitely and with her retired to Vancouver. They lived in retirement there for twenty-one years before moving to Edmonton to live for another eight years. Mr. Robertson passed away in September of 1973 at the age of ninety years. He will be remembered in Irma as a hard-working man, a good neighbor as well as a charter member of the Alberta Wheat Pool with Mr. Oscar Steffenson, and a member of the Irma School Board. The farm was sold to the Clifford Smallwoods whose son, Bob, now resides on the place and farms the land.

Just Wait

She doesn't wink, she doesn't flirt,
She tells no gossip, spreads no dirt,
She has no line, she plays no tricks,
But give her time . . . she's only six!



Easter Sunday in 1953. Doug, Elaine, Norma, Mavis, and Greg.



Wilma and one of her registered Quarter horses at Hanna in 1981.

FRIENDLY OBSTACLES

For every hill I've had to climb,
For every stone that bruised my feet,
For all the blood and sweat and grime,
For blinding storms and burning heat,
My heart sings but a grateful song —
These were the things that made me strong.

For all the heartaches and tears,
For all the anguish and the pain,
For gloomy days and fruitless years,
And for the hopes that lived in vain,
I do give thanks, for now I know
These were the things that helped me grow.

'Tis not the softer things of life
Which stimulate man's will to strive,
But bleak adversity and strife
Do most to keep man's will alive,
O'er rose-strewn paths the weaklings creep,
But brave hearts dare to climb the steep.



Dick & Lila Rohrer's wedding, December, 1924.

ROHRER FAMILY

The Rohrer family were early settlers of the Stettler area. After the farmland in that area was fenced, the Rohrers moved to the Lynx district northwest of Irma where there was lots of open range land for their livestock. They drove their horses from Stettler and settled on N.E. 30-47-9.

Dick and Lila had two children Dicksie and Joe. Lila taught at several country schools. In the early forties the Rohrer family moved to Irma where they resided for many years. Dick and Lila were staunch supporters of the United Church.

Dicksie married Elmer Helm and they have six children. They are living in Calgary now. Joe married Diane Scott and they live in Sherwood Park with their three children.

Lila Rohrer passed away in March of 1977 and Dick in April of 1982. They had celebrated fifty-two years of marriage before Lila's death.



Three generations - Col. and Mrs. Rohrer, Dick and Dicksie.

The Best of Life

May there always be work for your hands to do.
May your purse always hold a coin or two.
May the sun always shine on your windowpane.
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.
May the hand of a friend always be near you.
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

MR. AND MRS. THOMAS ROME

Thomas Rome was born in Dumfries, Scotland, in 1886 and immigrated to Ontario where he lived a number of years before venturing to the Roseberry area in 1920, living on N.W. 14-46-8. Before coming to Roseberry he enlisted early in the war and was in the 134th Highlanders and later drafted to the 15th Battalion. He was wounded at Vimy Ridge on April 9th, 1917, a young man of twenty-one years. He suffered from that wound for many years and finally was placed on the pension list in the latter part of 1929.

Thomas married Josephine Pettigrew in Irma on June 7th, 1921 and resided on Thomas' land in Roseberry district. This family was blessed with two girls, Grace and Allison.

They mix-farmed for many years and Mrs. Rome grew lovely gardens. There were fruit trees and vegetables. Mr. Rome passed away April 10th, 1930 in the University Hospital in Edmonton, leaving his wife and girls to manage the farm. Mrs. Rome's brother, Glen Pettigrew, came out from Ontario to help manage the farm. Mrs. Rome, with the help of the hired man, John Sunderberg, was able to keep the farm going until Glen arrived. John stayed on as hired help. Grace and Allison attended Roseberry School.

Mrs. Rome sold her land to W.R. Askin in the late forties. Mrs. Rome and John moved to Edson where they were married and resided until they moved into the Eventide Nursing Home. Mrs. (Rome) Sunderberg passed away in the summer of 1982 and John is residing in the nursing home.

Grace and Allison are making their home in and around Edmonton.

The house and barn are still standing at the Rome's former farm site.

ALLEN RONAGHAN IRMA 1954-1961

by Shirley Ronaghan

An advertisement appeared in the *Edmonton Journal* about a "problem room with large enrollment" in Irma. Allen applied for it and was accepted, so we, Allen, Shirley, May and Beth Ronaghan moved to Irma in August of 1954. The local trucker, Leo Shaw, moved our effects from Grimshaw, and we thus began a happy seven years stay in Irma. Mr. Fred Hill, chairman of the Wainwright School Division, had helped Allen find a house, so we were able to settle right in.

That fall Mr. Reed, Rev. Inglis and the Matthews family were very generous with their garden produce, and we had a lovely supply of fresh vegetables all fall. Our introduction to Irma was a very pleasant one.

We found that we could purchase all our needs in the Irma business section. McFarland's store, run by Mr. McFarland Sr., Ross, and Mr. Brown was a wonderful place to shop for groceries, clothes, and dry goods as well as footwear. The Co-op, managed by Vic Torrance, with Milt Fahner and Ernie Owen helping was also a good place to shop. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jack in the hardware,

assisted by Mr. Knudson, had a complete stock of all that you needed, including lovely china.

Mr. Pond, Jim and Elsie ran a nice restaurant, with homemade pies a specialty. While we were there they built a lovely new building.

The Bank of Montreal was open a few days a week, and later, with Louie Anderson as manager, operated full-time.

Mr. Masson had an insurance agency, and Carl Anquist a machine agency. I think the bus stopped at Carl's.

Mr. Charter was the town secretary, and ran town affairs capably from a tiny office.

Larry Meier had the butcher shop and specialized in home-cured ham. The Wyands - Frank and Homer - brought milk to Larry's, and we were able to get our fresh milk from there daily. Harold Barber ran the pool-hall and barbershop. Mr. Hurst had a machine shop where he manufactured a special cover to make use of used oil pails. Mr. Black ran the lumberyard. Frickletons were in the drugstore taken over later by Mrs. Lang and still later by the Engers.

There were several garages, but until we got a car we didn't become acquainted with them, and then we dealt with Wilf Symington, Stan Murray and Andy.



May, Stella, Beth Ronaghan at Irma in 1957.

The school was well-staffed, with Donald Gunn as principal. Allen became vice-principal. The staff also included Lucille Touchette, Mrs. Ballentine, Kate Younker, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Prosser, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Clumstad, Mrs. Chase and Mrs. Glasgow, who taught music at both Irma and Wainwright. The shop teacher was Con LaFleur and the Home Ec. teachers I remember were Mary MacDonald and Norma Casselman, both of whom came once a week from Wainwright.

Later on the school expanded, as did the staff. Some of the teachers who came later were Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Elsie McRoberts, Hugh Myers, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Matthews and Larry Snyder. For many years Mrs. Bessie Larson was substitute teacher.

On December 12th of 1955 there was a big blizzard. The school busses were sent home at first recess, but Wilf Symington and Colin Desjardine had not returned by late afternoon. When this was noticed a group of men gathered and went out in a Gas Company snowmobile to find them. They were found safely waiting at Jack



The Allen Ronaghan Family: Beth, Allen, Stella, Shirley and May Ronaghan in 1978.

Taylor's. Then followed an interesting trip back to Highway 14, with drifting snow and poor visibility. Allen got out and walked in front with a flashlight and guided them along the road. When they reached Highway 14 they radioed to the Gas Camp and Mrs. McRoberts at the Telephone Exchange phoned all the wives of the men to say they were on their way home. A collective sigh of relief went up over Irma, and supper dishes began to rattle.

1955 was Jubilee Year for Alberta and a very special year for us, as our daughter Stella was born between two storms on April 25th. We bought a 1951 Pontiac in August of that year, and it served our family for many years. Each of our girls used it in turn to drive to work during the summer holidays.

Some interesting things happened while we were in Irma.

Rev. Inglis' goats got out one dark autumn night, and everyone in town, it seemed, was out chasing them.

Mr. Guiltner and Rev. Inglis bumped into each other with their trucks early one morning. Someone quipped, "Was that enough to make a preacher swear?"

A movie theatre was built by the Brokop family.

"Sputnik" was launched, and we all spent many hours looking at the sky, hoping to see it.

One year I got the prize for being the oldest person on skates at the Ice Carnival. Mr. Inglis decided that that was ridiculous, so he entered and got the prize next year.

One year I was leader of the younger C.G.I.T. group. After we had our elections one of the girls said, "Well now, what are we going to do to raise money?" I guess she thought that was the main reason for the church club. Donna Lovig was our treasurer, and she was going to open an account at the bank. One Friday night after school she went to do this. Later on that evening, just before six o'clock, the bank was robbed. It was an exciting evening in Irma with a posse under Cliff Jones formed to apprehend the robbers.

A sad event one year was Robbie Glasgow's being killed by lightning on the school grounds during the noon hour.

We were fortunate to have Roy and Eileen Miles for neighbors. Before the town water and sewer system was installed we had to haul our water in cream cans. Roy was always very good about taking our can when he went for their water supply.

Late one afternoon the town was treated to an impromptu open air concert given by a railway construction gang. The men were chiefly Italians and sang many old

favorites including "Santa Lucia" and "La Donna e Mobile". Many townspeople strolled over to the station to see who was doing the lovely singing.

Our family is now quite scattered. May, who took Biological Sciences at N.A.I.T., married Melvin Lungle of Fairview, Alberta. They have spent time in Australia and Nigeria, and are now in Guelph, Ontario, where Mel is working on his doctoral degree.

Beth took Secretarial Arts at Vermilion College, and then went on to a B.A. program at Camrose College and University of Lethbridge. She married Bruce Hinman of Pincher Creek, and they are living in Ottawa.

Stella took Secretarial Arts at Vermilion College and worked for the C.B.C. in Edmonton. She married Donald Welsh of Edmonton, and they have three children, Nancy, Donnie and Allen.

Allen and I have lived in many places, but now are at Barrhead. Allen is working at the Alberta Correspondence School and completing his doctoral thesis for the University of Manitoba.

KNUT AND AASNE RONJOM

Knut Ronjom, a silversmith in his home area of Telemarken, Norway, took a big step in 1928 when he journeyed with his wife and family aboard the ship Bergenfjord from Oslo to Halifax. Travelling by train to Jarrow, they arrived in late March to be welcomed by Arthur Overby and Tom Overbo. They enjoyed supper at Arthur and Alice Overby's before going to Bruhaugs who lived on the Kennedy place in the Metropolitan area.

Knut and Asmund went to the land office and were



Aasne, Borghild, Knut. Hjordis holding JoAnne.



Kristine, John, Borghild, Edwin, Asmund, children of Knut Ronjom on his one hundredth birthday.

able to purchase the S.E. 19-46-10-W4th. Leaving Aasne, Edwin and John to stay with Bruhaugs temporarily, he and Asmund began constructing a dwelling. Kristine and Borghild quickly found work at Killam and Lougheed respectively. The family were able to move to the homestead in May and the two younger boys attended school in Jarrow.

In 1942 Knut bought the McKenzie place (N.E. 18-46-10-W4th) and he and Aasne took up residence there. They and their son Asmund resided there until 1965 when Aasne fell and broke her hip. From then till her death in 1976 they spent the winter months from November to March in the city with their daughter, Kristine, coming back to their home on the farm each summer. After Aasne's passing Knut spent his remaining years with his daughters Kristine or Borghild. He attained the age of 101 on June 1st, passing away a few days later in the Viking Hospital.

Asmund farmed with his Dad until his retirement and presently resides with his sister Borghild.

Edwin as well as farming with Asmund and Knut, worked for other farmers in the Lougheed area as well as working for the gas company for a period of seven years. In 1944 he married Brenda Belton. They have two children, Wayne born in 1946 and Diana was born in 1952. Wayne is married to the former Shirley Haeberle and they have two children. Diana wed Grant Pendleton in 1970 and they have two girls. Edwin and Brenda still reside on the home quarter S.E. 19-46-10-W4th.

Kristine married Martin Swingen in September of 1938. Borghild married Harold Andreson May 24th, 1935.

John Ronjom completed his grade twelve and went on to take one year of normal in 1939-40. He first taught at Butzeville east of Chauvin, later teaching at Ribstone and Jarrow and finally spending a number of years at the Edgerton School as Principal. He became the Superintendent of Schools for County of Flagstaff in 1966. During this time he purchased a ranch at Sundre in partnership with Victor Ternent. After commuting between Killam and Sundre for a time, John applied for superintendency at Rocky Mountain House, a position he still holds.

GEORGE AND GLADYS RUBENOK

George Rubenok was born July 13th, 1896 in Eureka, Montana. He had three brothers and sisters.

In 1904 the Rubenok family packed all their belongings, machinery and horses in a boxcar and the family travelled to Edmonton, Alberta. From Edmonton they travelled to the Battle River area south of Irma. George's father Mike, homesteaded in an area called Strawberry Plains. For many years the Rubenok farm was a way station for oxen trains travelling from Hardisty to the Fabyan coulee where the railway was built.

In 1917 George married Gladys Dawson in Irma. They homesteaded the N.W. 20-44-8-W4th in the Lewisville district where they resided until 1946, when they sold their land to Albert Firkus. They had one daughter Pearl, (Mrs. Alec Mancor). George served on the Lewisville school board for several years. He also helped to build roads in the area. Gladys was an active and longstanding member of the Red Cross.

George and Gladys built their homestead up to a one and one half section farm. In summer George farmed and in winters worked at the Wainwright Buffalo Park caring for and feeding the buffalo. For some years George travelled to Saskatchewan and worked at farms harvesting wild hay. Gladys would stay at home and manage the farm. George and Gladys also made a home for her younger brothers Marshall and George.

In 1946 George and Gladys sold their farm and moved to Victoria, B.C. where they lived for several years. They then moved back to Lacombe where they farmed until



50th wedding anniversary - George and Gladys Rubenok.

1976 when George suffered a stroke. George passed away October 11th, 1981 in Camrose, Alberta. He was buried in the Rubenok plot at Hardisty. Gladys is living in Ponoka.

MIKE RUBENOK FAMILY

In 1904 Mr. and Mrs. Mike Rubenok and their family consisting of four boys and three girls, left Tobacco Plains, Montana, to seek homesteads in Alberta. All their settlers' effects were transported in a boxcar. From Edmonton they travelled by horse and wagon to an area south of Irma near the Battle River where there was plenty of water for their livestock. They lived in a tent until a house was built. The year 1906 was painted on the side of the house.

When it was necessary to build a school a group of settlers gathered out on the prairie to discuss this issue. While travelling to this meeting, Mike noticed the delicious smell of strawberries as the wagon wheels crushed them. Thus they decided to call the school Strawberry Plains.

For years the Rubenok farm was a way station for oxen trains travelling from Hardisty to the Fabyan Coulee where the railway was built.

Mike Rubenok Jr. purchased S.W. 7-45-8-W4th where Gordon Fischer lives today. There is a shallow crossing on the Battle River which is still known as Rubenok crossing. The Fischers use this crossing to get their cattle to pasture. Mike returned to Washington as a young man and died there in his fifties.

Mary Rubenok married a Mr. McCulla. They lived for years where Randy Long lives today.

Johnnie Rubenok married Hazel Siebrasse and lived in the Rosyth district southeast of Hardisty for many years. They later moved to Turner Valley where Johnnie was employed in the oil fields. Johnnie passed away on December 29th, 1975. Hazel passed away on December 29th, 1981. They were both buried at Hardisty.

Joe Rubenok married Susie West and they farmed across the river by the Buffalo Park. Later they retired to Victoria, B.C. where they lived until their passing. Both are buried in Victoria.

Annie Rubenok married Bill Blinn, a former park warden at Rocky Ford Buffalo Park gate during World War I. They later moved to Turner Valley where Bill worked in the oil fields until his death in the 1950's. Annie lived with her daughter, Jean, in Edmonton after Bill's death.

Lizzie, the youngest of the Mike Rubenok children, married Earl Boyd of Wainwright. They moved to Edmonton to live until their passing.

A. WILLIAM RUSSELL

by Bill and Bessie Russell

I, the youngest, of nineteen, was born in Essex, England in 1900. After leaving school I went to work on various farms. At this time World War I was on and at the age of seventeen I joined the army. The war was proclaimed over before I was sent to the front.

I set sail with my brother Arthur by boat across the Atlantic in 1926. Arriving at Halifax I was greatly relieved the trip was over as I'd suffered seasickness during the entire trip. Tired or not I had no intention of making a new life in Canada. On my arrival in Alberta I lived with my sister and brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Jack James, where I did chores etc. I decided to purchase the south-half of 8-45-10-W4th and broke some land. The first year we had a bumper crop but it was badly frozen so was sold for feed.

During this time I met Bessie Allen. She was born in Irma but lived all her life in the Metropolitan area and attended school there. Bessie and I were married in Wainwright on December 16th, 1930.

For a time we lived with her folks and farmed our land by taking my dinner on horseback to go back and forth. There were times in the thirties when I would bach in a granary during the week and go home Saturday night. During the summer months I worked for the municipality helping to build roads with a team, earth mover and plow in order to pay the land taxes, plus get a few extra dollars. I would go threshing for neighbors with a team, wagon and rack in the fall. Wages were as low as two dollars a day. During the lean years of the thirties we endured quite a lot of sickness.

Within a few years we had three children, Alfred, Vera and David. They all attended Metropolitan with David continuing his education in Sedgewick, going by school bus.



Russell family (William).

Alfred farmed at home besides working out for awhile. Later he met and married Mary Alderdice and they have two children, Colleen and James.

After Vera left school she worked on various farms and became a good cook and housekeeper. She kept house in Hardisty and worked in the Loughheed Hotel. Vera married Harold Lien in 1957 and to this marriage two children, Ronald and Bonnie were born. Ronnie farms with his dad and is married to Mandy White of Loughheed. They have a daughter Samantha. Bonnie worked in Flagstaff Lodge until 1957 when she married David Butcher of Loughheed. They have a son Jason. Vera lives in Sedgewick and raises a good garden and lovely flowers. She keeps the Sedgewick bank clean and enjoys her grandchildren.

David, after leaving school, went to Edmonton where he is still living and has a job in Woodward's Southgate.

He married Marion White and they have two children, Deborah and Kevin.

On our land we finally got a two room shack to which we added a lobby. Fortunately the fall of 1939 was mild until nearly Christmas, which gave us time to settle in. By now we had a few cattle, chickens, turkeys, a dog and cats. We had four horses to work the land and a saddle horse for the children to ride to school. Later we raised pigs. We purchased our first tractor, a Case, in 1948 and two years later a half ton truck.

In the fall of 1972 we moved to Sedgewick where we have a comfortable home with a garden. We have joined the Senior Citizens Club and Bessie belongs to the A.C.W. We attend the Anglican Church.

THE RUSSELL FAMILIES

Jim Russell was the first of the Russell families to venture west from Durham, Ontario in 1907. He homesteaded north of Loughed and operated a harness repair shop in Sedgewick. Jim later purchased land one mile east of Melbrae School which he farmed for several years. The Jim Russell's had one daughter and three sons, Freddie, Johnny and Bert - the latter being best known in the Irma district because he married Mary Thurston.

William Russell homesteaded N.W. 26-44-10 in the Melbrae district in 1910. Bill was well-known as a well driller and repairman. They had two sons, Harry and Adolph and a daughter, Ella (Collier).

Jack Russell, the best known in the Irma district, came west with his father in 1909 and they homesteaded N.E. 26-44-10, and the N.W. 25-44-10, the quarters located adjacent across the road. They built a small house on the east quarter. It was dug into the hill and built up with sod walls and roof. They returned to Ontario for the winter. Mr. Russell passed away shortly after in the winter of 1910.

Jack married Beatrice Wilson and in the spring of 1910, Jack, Beatrice, Jack's mother, known to all as Grandma Russell, and Jack's sister Lizzie came west. Grandma Russell lived in the sod house until 1921 or 1922 when Jack purchased a lumber house from Fred Bumpus and moved it onto the east quarter for his mother. Grandma proved up her husband's homestead. She was a kind soul and helped many families. She helped at the Miller home when Marguerite and Leona were born as did Dicka Fluevog. The Fluevog children remember Grandma giving them cookies when they walked home from school passing by her house. Grandma Russell passed away in 1928. Her funeral was held from the house with Reverend Wright of Irma officiating. She is buried in the Irma cemetery.

Lizzie met Harley Gidley, a hardware man from Vegreville and they were married. They moved to Edmonton and later to Vancouver, where Lizzie still lives. They had three children, Dorothy, Dick and Mary, who all reside in British Columbia.

Jack's sister Priscilla married a Mr. Lascelles from a well-to-do British family and lived in New York. One summer while visiting here their little daughter became ill and died, and she was buried in the Irma cemetery.

At first, Jack and Beatrice lived in a log house where their first child was born. He died in infancy from influenza, in 1918. They built the second house from logs, with a lumber floor, and shingled roof. In 1918-1919, the third house was erected.

Jack and Beatrice were hard-working and progressive farmers. They acquired more land until they were farming nine quarters, a large farm in those days, with only horses for power. They built a modern set of buildings and proceeded to milk cows, raise pigs and at one time Jack raised silver foxes. Beatrice recalled one time in early days when Jack went with ox team to Sedgewick for supplies as they were out of food. She thought she would walk to Charlie Miller's house to get something to eat. When she arrived Charlie had gone to Hardisty, and he, being a bachelor, there was no one at home. However, in those days doors were never locked, so she went in and found the heel of a dry loaf of bread. She said that was the best thing she ever ate.



Adolph, Nathan and Mark Russell taken in 1942 on harvest leave from R.C.A.F.

Three more children were born to this marriage, Florence, Mark and Nathan. All three attended Melbrae school. In the middle twenties, Jack got wet pluresy, and spent most of one winter in the Royal Alexander Hospital. In order to drain the fluid from his lungs, the doctors removed part of his ribs. This opening had to be dressed every day and with no antibiotics the situation did not improve. Hydrogen peroxide was used to cleanse the open sore, but Jack suffered with this until his death in 1934. After Jack's death, Peder Nilson operated the farm for Beatrice for several years. Beatrice married Dan Larson in 1937, and they moved to the Grandma Russell house. In 1938 Peder married Nanna Fluevog and they rented the Russell farm until 1940 and resided in the Russell house. Beatrice passed away on December 29, 1969 and Dan on October 20, 1973.

Florence went to Ontario where she took a hairdressing course. She married Clare Little and they had two children, Gayle and Dean. Florence passed away in 1969.

Mark joined the Air Force in World War 2 in 1941 and spent some time overseas. He met and married an English girl, Christine Brislee in 1944, and after the war they returned to the farm. Mark and Chris had six children. All of them attended school in Irma. Carole and Faye started school in Coal Springs little school with Irene Fluevog as their first teacher.

Carole worked at the nursing home in Camrose for a year, and then married Albert Reber. They have two

children, Lynda and Janice. Carole now resides in Edmonton. Faye worked in Edmonton after leaving school, and married Kenny Whitten. They have two children, Sean and Darcy. They now reside in Minburn. Terry, Colin, Wayne and Vern all went to Edmonton to work after leaving school. Terry is married to Melda (Guy) and



Back: Mark, Terry, Colin, Wayne Russell. Front: Faye, Carole, Chris and Vern in front.

resides in the city. Colin passed away in February, 1980, while on holiday in Hawaii. Wayne lives in Edmonton, while presently building a home at Josephburg. Vern is now working as an electrician and attending N.A.I.T.

Nathan married Joyce Sikstrom from Edberg in 1947. They moved to Ontario, then to Cleveland, Ohio where they became United States citizens. They then moved to the coast in Washington. They have two sons, Zane and Neal. Nathan has worked for Boeing Aircraft for over twenty years in Seattle.

Chris and Mark left the farm in the spring of 1971, and now reside in Irma.

ARLENE RUSTE (NEE STEFFENSEN)

It was back in the early "dirty thirties" that I started my schooling in the one room country school, Glenholm, then progressing into Irma for two years of high school and finishing my high school at Camrose Lutheran College. Perhaps for the benefit of those not familiar with the old country school, I'd like to share a couple of items which stand out in my memory. The highlight of the year was the annual Christmas concert. Most of December was spent practising for this big event, so of course this meant that not much schoolwork was done. I also remember how eager we were during the winter months to get our "antiquated" ski equipment on and head for the hill behind the barn. How we manoeuvred down that steep and rocky hill without severe injury is still a mystery to me.

After high school, I decided to enter the field of Home Economics and spent two years at the University of Saskatchewan and then completed my degree course in Edmonton at the University of Alberta. My sister,



Henry and Arlene Ruste (nee Steffenson), Jurg and Sharon Hunzicker (nee Ruste) and their children Walter and Anna, Deborah and Ivor Ruste and Donald Ruste. Taken August, 1983 at Sharon Lutheran Church at Sharon and Jurg's installation as missionaries to the Cameroons, Africa.

Solveig, was finishing her courses in Education at the same time, so we bached together in a private home. My love for fried egg sandwiches disappeared after that year. After a short time with the Department of Agriculture as a Home Economist, I spent a year at the University Hospital in Edmonton and received my certificate in Dietetics. I then received employment as the Dietitian at the Sanatorium in Saskatoon for a few years until my marriage to Henry Ruste, a farmer of Wainwright, in 1954. In 1955, Henry became the Social Credit Member of the Alberta Legislature for the Wainwright Constituency. He was asked to join the Cabinet as Lands and Forest Minister in 1965 which meant that the family had to move to Edmonton. Henry also served as Minister of Agriculture for about three years. The family lived in Edmonton until 1975 when Henry retired after twenty years in politics.

The oldest son, Ivor, has become a chartered accountant with the firm of Peat, Marvick, and Mitchell, Edmonton where he resides with his wife, Deborah, who is also a C.A. with the same firm.

Sharon, the only daughter took some training in Interior Design, as well as attending the Bible School in Camrose. She is married to Juerg Hunziker, formerly of Switzerland, and they have two children. They are presently learning the French language in France before they are posted to Cameroon, Africa to help with agricultural projects there. They are sponsored by the Lutheran World Mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

The youngest son, Don, after two years of engineering at the University of Alberta decided to use his skills as a carpenter and mechanic on the home farm. Henry and Arlene are now semi-retired and living on their farm near Wainwright.

The trouble with a good many cars today is that the engine won't start and the payments won't stop.

TOM SANDERS

by Lily Morse

In 1903 my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Sanders, as newly-weds, left London, England to "homestead" in Canada. They settled near Dubuc, Saskatchewan which was then known as Assiniboia. We four children were born there, Ross, Lily, Wilfred, and Edwin. In 1910 we left that farm to make a home in the "booming" city of Edmonton where there was plenty of work for carpenters. But a short four years later all prosperity came to a sad and sudden end with World War I. A much safer place to be would be on the farm.



Mr. and Mrs. T. Sanders about 1921.

So in April, 1915, we arrived at Irma. We came with the Simmons family also intent on life in the country. We well remember our first day in the Strawberry Plains district where we had found an empty farmhouse. When beds were set up and bedtime arrived, three boys were missing. Ross, nine years old, and Sid and Ernie Simmons of similar ages had gone exploring and failed to return. Panic-stricken parents and some neighbours searched through the night while the boys, unable to find their way back, spent the night in a beautiful big strawpile. When morning came, the boys found their way to a neighbour's home (I believe to be that of Oscar McMurray) where they were treated to such a breakfast that it was the highlight of their experience. We stayed there till Dad had a house built and a road to get to our new homestead. "We kids" attended Strawberry Plains School for a short while and remember Jake Reed telling us that a lake on their farm was bigger than Lake Superior. We had a river on ours!

Our new farm in the Battle River valley, NE 20-44-7

was quite hilly, good goat country but no goats. We lived "close to the land" with plenty of wild game and berries and good grass and water for a few cows. Dad managed to find a few jobs of carpentering. He once tanned a cowhide and made harness for our horses and mended our shoes. He successfully made some banjos and guitars and tried to teach us to play them. Our only enemies on the farm were coyotes in the chicken yard and wandering bands of horses in our feed stacks. Except for the fact of schooling being limited and existence for mothers being lonesome, it was a super place to raise a family.

In 1922, we moved from this farm to rent the George Sawyer place, closer to better schooling and more land for the boys growing up. Within a few years a section of "raw" land, 27-45-8 was purchased from C.P.R. and every effort was made to put it under cultivation. A new home was developed. The house was built of hand-made concrete blocks. This was a very interesting summer with numerous callers coming to watch the progress. Dad and the boys worked on Highway 14 during its various stages



Tom, Ed, Mrs. Sanders and Edith.

of development, using horse power. I had become a schoolteacher. At this time progressive new farming methods were being introduced on this farm, fertilizers and sprays being tested. A new interest in special types of cattle began. When the first calf club was formed, Harriet's Black Angus was first winner. Dad continued his interest in school boards and co-operatives. Mother joined some ladies' clubs. We all became integral parts of the community of Crescent Hill.

By 1948, there were three houses on this farm. Edwin



Lily Sanders

had married Edith Fitzpatrick and had two daughters, Harriet and Violet. Wilfred had married Marion McNaughton and had daughter Lily and two sons Donald and Thomas. Ross had moved to the west coast and I had married Harold Morse.

In 1948, Dad and Mother with Edwin and his family moved to Bradner, B.C. where they operated a store and a post office. Back at Irma the farm was taken over by Wilfred and family on the west half and Harold and I on the east half. Wilfred and Marion now, 1983, reside in Wainwright.

CURTIS SATRE FAMILY

Curtis, oldest child of Ludvig and Hilma Satre, was born on October 26th, 1924 at Loughheed, but grew up in the Irma community having completed his Grade XII at the Irma Rural High School. In order to get an education he rode a bicycle and horse to Irma to get his high school education.

All during his teenage years, Curtis struggled with the call to the ministry. Not an easy decision at any time, it was much harder during those heady years after the war when opportunities seemed endless.

In the winter of 1946-47 he attended C.L.B.I. in Camrose and in the fall of 1947 left Irma for five years at the University of Saskatchewan and Luther Seminary, both located in Saskatoon.

In the Luther League (youth group) at Zion Lutheran Church, he met Gertrude Farden, of Macrori, Saskatchewan. Four years later they were married, September 1st, 1951, and lived in Saskatoon while he finished his last year of Seminary. Gertrude was a nurse and worked at the Emergency Ward, a training very useful in later years.

In 1952 Curtis and Gertrude moved to Vancouver where they moved into a two bedroom house one block from Dunbar Lutheran, their first parish. It was very cozy in that little home... and still more so when Curtis Jonathan was born August 1st, 1953. When his little sister, Randi, arrived in October of 1954, it appeared full. However, two more girls arrived, Ami in 1956 and Ruth in 1957 and the thoughtful congregation bought a new parsonage with four bedrooms!

In February of 1958 the family moved to Calgary to serve another mission congregation - Faith Lutheran. It was a thriving congregation and three years passed very quickly. Identical twins, Jacob and James, were born in 1960, but James only lived one day. Curtis and Randi began school there.

In 1961 a major change came to the Satres. Curtis was called by the church to serve in the Head Office as the Executive Director of the Division of Canadian Missions, and also Foreign Missions for awhile. During his time in this position, Curtis travelled all over Canada and the United States, even across the water to India, Bangladesh, Argentina and The Holy Land.

A new home was built in Saskatoon, a spacious split-level that was to be home for the next seventeen years. They were good years in spite of the travelling that kept Dad on the road.

Curtis Jr. became an engineer and works in Calgary.

He and Cheryl have two little girls. Randi became a teacher, married Barry Barker and they live in Saskatoon. They had the New Year's baby on January 1st, 1984. Ami became a nurse, married her high school sweetheart who became a pastor. They have two sons and Harley serves the Lutheran Church in Estevan, Saskatchewan. Ruth is also a teacher. She married Bruce Sestak and they live in Saskatoon. Jacob still lives at home and works for Air Canada.

Since 1978 Curtis and Gertrude have lived in Calgary, where Curtis serves Emmanuel Lutheran congregation. They continue to visit Irma regularly, to farm the quarter section a mile east of Sharon Church.

It's interesting that this Irma son who has travelled four continents, has kept coming back again and again to the old hometown. Many have asked "Will you retire on the farm?" And the reply gets more realistic all the time .. "You never know!"



Curtis, Avis, Eunice Satre in 1937.

SATRE FAMILY

by Eunice (Satre) Gulbraa

Ludvig Martin Satre was the only child born to Hans and Elise Satre in Haugesund, Norway. After the death of her husband two years later, Elise worked in a laundry to support her son.

In 1912 she accepted the proposal of a former neighbor, Eric Johnson, who had been in Canada since 1905. She and her fourteen year old son sailed to Canada on the Empress of Ireland, which took six days. On arriving in Halifax they took the train across Canada to Sedgewick. While stopped for water some place in Ontario, Ludvig and a friend got off to explore and found a berry patch. They just about didn't get back in time before the train took off, so needless to say his mom was very upset.

On arriving in Sedgewick they were met by the future groom and Eric and Elise were married by Rev. Egadahl (Irene Fluevog's father). Ludvig helped his step-father, farm with oxen. When he was old enough to go out and get a job he spent several winters in the logging camps in Seattle, Washington, and the summer months working for neighbors.

At a Young People's gathering of the church he met a girl from Irma - Hilma Christenson. When Ludvig was courting Hilma he had to go by the Erickson home to get

to the Christenson farm. Mrs. Erickson would phone over and tell Hilma to hurry and powder her nose because she just noticed that single horse and buggy go by. Hilma would be just furious.

The love bug bit and in 1922 on October 12th, they were married in Viking, also by Rev. Egadahl. Hilma often commented on having to wait for Mrs. Egadahl to take her bread out of the oven so she could act as a witness to the wedding. In her haste she dropped a loaf and it went sliding across the floor, much to her embarrassment.

Their first home was at Loughheed, about eight miles north. Their first child Harold Curtis, born October 26th, 1924, weighed in at about ten pounds oversized and later underfed. No pabulum in those days, just walk the floor and wonder why they were so unhappy.

In 1926 they moved east to farm the Christenson land. That fall, November 15th, Merna Eunice was delivered by Dr. Stoner. Uncle Hans Christenson had gone to get him in the cutter. They moved again in 1929, this time to the Strawberry Plains district where they farmed until 1944. There were many hard years of poor crops and sickness and the death of their twenty-one month old daughter Lorraine in 1933. Avis Laverna brightened the lives of all of us when she arrived on August 15th, 1934, a much needed blessing to the family.

During those years there was no other regular income than the cream cheques, a whopping one dollar and fifty cents for five gallons of cream. Now we pay two dollars and fifty cents per quart, if you can find someone who still milks. In the fall we had a few calves for sale and a little grain.

How we waited for those big brown parcels to arrive from Simpsons and Eatons, which included a new outfit for the Christmas Concert at the school. How well we remember too how hard it was to get our long underwear tucked inside our stockings without having too noticeable a lump showing. Many a girl came to the concert with a blister on her ear from the hot curling iron that had been heated inside a coal oil lamp. It was such an exciting evening! I can still feel the chill in my spine when I see Santa arrive. I was always afraid of him. On our way to the concert we would know who was ahead or behind us by the sound of the sleigh bells.



Ludvig, Eunice, Avis, Curtis and Hilma Satre.

How well I remember the terrible dust storms that we had to go through to go home from school. Murray, Joyce and Bud Dawson went to school in a two wheeled cart so Lilly Nilson (Mrs. Ralph Erickson), Curtis and I would tie our horses to the cart and would ride with the Dawson kids, with coats over our faces. After many dry years, only a few inches of the tops of the fences were left showing. The ditches were full of drift sand. That was in the late thirties.

In the winter the roads would be blocked for weeks. No snow plows in those days. More than once our dads had to come and shovel a road through the banks in order for us to get past the Mitchell corner, (south of where Henry and Judy Fenton live now).

There were several bachelors, Keith Price, Abel Rance and Frank Withall, would come to our home and want waffles for supper. Mom told them to go split her lots of kindling wood because she needed a fast fire. It wasn't long until the waffles were being made and the bachelors went home satisfied.

Mom always had a good garden and with the use of Old Hickory Smoke Salt we always had cured pork to fry, as well as jars of chickens and beef and wild fruit in the cellar, so we never went hungry.

During the summer we always went to town on Saturday night and never went home until the stores closed at midnight. When we became teenagers it was our night of the week to meet new friends.



Satre family in 1955. Eunice, Carl holding Lorraine, Avis, Ludwig, Hilma, Gertrude holding Curtis Jr. and Curtis holding Randy.

After buying the Christenson farm in 1944, times started to get better for everyone. With better crops and the kids all away from home, Dad and Mom were finally able to do a few of the things they had dreamed of. Living closer to Sharon Lutheran they were able to be more active in church activities.

Then in 1955 we were again stricken when that dreaded disease of cancer took our mom, Hilma, at the age of fifty-six years. Dad carried on for twelve years all by himself, but in 1967 his life was again filled with happiness when he married Elsie Christenson of Sedgewick (no relation to the first Christenson families). They farmed until 1973 when they moved into the home formerly occupied by Percy Jones. Ludvig farmed part of his land until the age of eighty-three but now rents it to

SAVAGE, LAWRENCE AND MARION

Lawrence Savage was born at Youngstown, Alberta in July of 1914. He spent some time working out, much of it in the Turner Valley oil field, until his father's death in 1943. He then returned to Irma to run the family farm.

In 1941, Lawrence married Marion Meyer, daughter of Jacob Meyer, a local farmer. Lawrence and Marion remained on the Savage farm and raised a family of six boys and five girls. In the fall of 1964, Lawrence moved his family into Irma, where they took up residence in the former Peterson house which they bought from Dick Rohrer. Later on, in 1976 they purchased the present Savage home here in Irma, built by Earl Blanchard. Lawrence is still farming, driving out to the farm each day as is necessary.

The older Savage children began their education at the "one room" Orbindale school to which they walked two and one-half miles. In the coldest part of the winter they were driven by truck or team and hayrack. When Orbindale school closed they were bussed to Albert Centralized school and later to Irma School where the younger children received their complete schooling.



The Satre Family. Standing: Willard and Avis Shaw, Curtis and Gertrude Satre, Eunice and Carl Gulbraa. Seated: Ludvig and Elsie Satre.

his grandson Harold Gulbraa.

The Satre children went their various ways. Curtis went to University and Seminary in Saskatoon where he received his B.A. and B.D. degrees. While there he met a nurse, Gertrude Farden and they were married on September 1st, 1951. To this union six children were born.

Eunice cooked two years at Camrose Lutheran College, then supervised Correspondence Courses for four years during the teacher shortage after the war. On October 20th, 1950 she married Carl Gulbraa. They have two children - Lorraine is Mrs. Dennis Thirsk and teaches at the Camrose Composite High School and Harold married Gwyneth Astley and farms with his parents.

Avis became a registered nurse and is Mrs. Willard Shaw of Edmonton. They have two daughters: Diane married Bruce McRae and have a daughter. Heather married Tom Downie and they have a son; Darren and Roger are at home.

Active in Sharon Lutheran Church, an ardent fisherman and busy in New Horizons, Ludvig and Elsie show what good health and happiness can mean to people who have gone beyond the three score years and ten. Can our older generation get around? One has to think so when you count two cars, a truck and a camper in Ludvig and Elsie's yard.

A man who wins most of his arguments usually loses most of his friends.



Lawrence Savage family, 1983, sons and daughters and their families.

Several of the Savage children still reside at Irma, others have moved on. Cecil, employed as Irma's town foreman, resides in Irma. Marie married Dean Lundgren. She and her three children live at Lethbridge, Alberta. Ann, now Mrs. Leonard Farwell, lives at Melfort, Saskatchewan with her husband and three children. Lucille married Terrance Meakins. They live in Irma, with their two children. Gordon passed away in November of 1966 at the young age of sixteen. He lies at rest in the Irma cemetery. Robert is married to Joanne Elder, they have two children and live at Elk Point, Alberta. Helen, now married to Kenneth McIntosh, makes her home in Wainwright. Richard, his wife Deborah (nee Dunnington), and their daughter Angela are presently living at Erskine, Alberta. Lenard and wife Dixie (nee Ferguson) reside at Wainwright. Rita and David are living at home with their parents.

Helen Savage is now Mrs. John Becklund living at Stettler, Alberta. Doris Savage married Fred Scheibel and they now reside at Nanaimo, B.C. Gertrude Savage is married to George Scollan and they also make their home at Nanaimo, B.C.

SAVAGE, OSWALD AND MARY

Oswald Savage was born near Guelph, Ontario in May of 1887. He came west to Alberta in March of 1910 at the age of twenty-three, and filed on a homestead approximately twenty-five miles south of Youngstown. He built a shack and broke his land. During the winter of 1911, Oswald returned to Ontario. There, he married Mary Ann Beitz in February of 1912. Mary was born in a small village near Guelph in May of 1889. In March of 1912, Oswald returned to Alberta, bringing Mary with him. They lived at DeWinton for just over a year and then moved on to the Savage homestead at Youngstown.

Oswald and Mary raised a family of four children: Lawrence, born in July of 1914; Helen, born August of 1916; Doris born August of 1920; and Gertrude born March of 1923.

During the 1930's, due to extensive drought in the Youngstown area, crops were poor and there was little feed for livestock. Thus, the Savages decided to move on. In April of 1938, they took up residence on a farm in the Orbindale District, twelve miles north and four miles east of Irma. Oswald and Mary farmed here in the Irma area



Oswald Savage family in the early 1950's. Helen, Lawrence, Mary, Gertrude and Doris.

until Oswald passed away in May of 1943. Their son, Lawrence, then took over the farm and still farms it to date. After her husband's death, Mary moved into Irma where she looked after a restroom for several years. She later moved to Edmonton where she passed away in January of 1954. Oswald and Mary both lie at rest in the Irma cemetery.

CHARLIE AND IDA SAVARD AND FAMILY

by Laurretta Lindsay

Dad and Mother arrived in Alberta in 1919. They moved from St. Anne's, Manitoba. Their possessions were two girls, four horses, one cow, one pig, wagon, plow and harrow. Two boys arrived later on the farm, SE 14-46-8. Dad and Mother, like many other early settlers worked hard, brushing, breaking land etc.

Happy moments? Many. Preparing for the Christmas school concert, a prelude to Santa's arrival December 24th. We always heard Santa's sleigh bells and the "rustling" of paper.

The Roseberry picnic was a day of community fun. These two events meant a "new" dress.

I recall the many "play-things" we did i.e. hitching horses (sticks) to the implements, playing store, using leaves for money (no real money in those days), cooking vegetables in water, in a small tin, which was placed in a larger tin with a bit of "flammable" fuel. We burned the barn.



Savard children in 1923. Jack, two years; Laurretta, five years; Don eleven months and Agnes three and one-half years.

My most memorable Christmas gift was a bob-sled, painted red, made by Dad.

As busy as he was, Dad was full of tricks. One, I remember. The straw stack was one of our play areas. One day Dad suggested that we "four" form a sled and slide down this particular side. At the "Go" signal, we took off. Upon landing, there was a scramble of piglets and kids.

The weekly shopping to Irma was a day's outing, with the horses. We waited for Dad's return with excitement. He brought the Chicago Examiner with the comics i.e. Tillie the Toiler, Katzenjammer Kids and Barney Google.

In those days farmers had frequent callers. Gypsies, selling drygoods or just travelling with their families, Watkins and Rawleigh salesmen. During the '30's were men with packs on their backs, asking for paper, matches and food. They frightened us.

An airplane was such a rarity that we climbed on the roof of the house to watch it.

Mother and Dad moved to Irma in the '40's. Jack and Violet continued with the farm work until 1968, when



Charlie Savard

they moved to Surrey, B.C.

Dad passed away in 1971. Mother lives in her own home, surrounded by flowers, in Surrey. Agnes is at Port Alberni, Don in Kamloops, myself in Coquitlam, B.C.

Lauretta is deceased.

SAVARD FAMILIES

by Jack Savard

My recollections and memories of Roseberry and Irma area go a long way back as I was born and raised on S.E. 14-46-8 and farmed the same family farmland between 1946-1968. My father and mother, Charlie and Ida Savard, my sisters, Lauretta and Agnes, moved to this farm in 1918, which my father and mother bought from homesteader J. A. Young. In 1920 I was born in the original log part of our home and in 1922 my brother Don was born. At about this time my mother's parents Grandpa and Grandma LaCroix also moved out to the area and Grandpa LaCroix built two or three houses in Irma. He then bought some land just across from where the Roseberry School was built and still stands. My Grandfather LaCroix was instrumental, along with other pioneers, in developing the first rural phone line in Roseberry District, using poplar poles and barbed wire and porcelain insulators. Over the next fifteen years or so my parents with the help of my sisters, brother and myself, farmed until the late thirties. Through good times and bad and during this time, we built onto the original log structure of our house - two bedrooms to the north, kitchen to the west and sunroom to the south.

Between 1938-1945 my sisters and brother and I left home and set up homes of our own. When I came back from overseas in 1945 my wife Violet and I took over the farming from my parents and they moved into Irma, taking Grandpa LaCroix with them, as by this time my Grandmother had passed away.

Some of my most vivid and cherished memories of Roseberry district, when I was growing up, included the threshing days which were always exciting, and I was allowed to be part of it. My father at this time was operating Mr. Oldham's steamer outfit and later, after harvest and during the winter we would haul those massive sixty-five bushel loads of grain by sled or wagon, with horses. There were times when we couldn't afford a

full meal at Pond's Cafe for twenty-five cents, so we would go to McFarland's store and buy a large bag of cookies for ten cents and share them while our horses rested.

As my sisters, brother and I grew older and were in our teens, we helped my father to make a skating rink and we all learned to skate and play hockey. We got on our farm hockey team and one of the highlights during this period was when we finally managed to beat Doc Greenberg's Junior Hockey team. This always brings to my mind our many friendships with neighbors and schoolmates - some of whom were Walkers, Steeles, Younkers, Oldhams, Carringtons, Burtons, Ulicks, Cooks, Ed Bundermans, Goodwins, Fords, Adams, Miltons, Taylors, Daltons and many others.

A few years ago when we attended Irma Daze, it was very nostalgic to talk with and visit some of the very wonderful teachers and students of Roseberry school. At one time there were Jack and Allan Taylor, Hazel Lawson and my sister Lauretta and I. We met Mrs. Darling (Miss Fischer), Mrs. Coultman, and others I often think of - Mrs. Harper, Miss Carmichael, Miss Hamilton. It is always a pleasure to go back and meet some of those old-timers.

My father passed away in 1971. My Mother moved to White Rock, B.C. - she is 84 years old and quite well. My brother Don and family live in Kamloops; my sister Agnes and husband live at Port Alberni. My sister Lauretta passed away in January, 1982.

I, Violet Savard, was raised in the Plaxtol District, seven miles east of Roseberry. I was married to Jack Savard in Wainwright on June 13th, 1943 during the second world war. Two days later we travelled to Alliston, Ontario, near Camp Borden, where Jack was stationed in the army. In February, 1944 Jack was sent overseas to England, France, Holland, Belgium and on to Germany. In October, 1945, Jack returned to me and our one and one-half year old daughter Lorraine whom he had never seen. We proceeded to farm on the Savard family farm after Jack's parents moved to Irma. We farmed there for twenty-three years - until we sold out and moved to Surrey, B.C. in 1968, where we still reside.

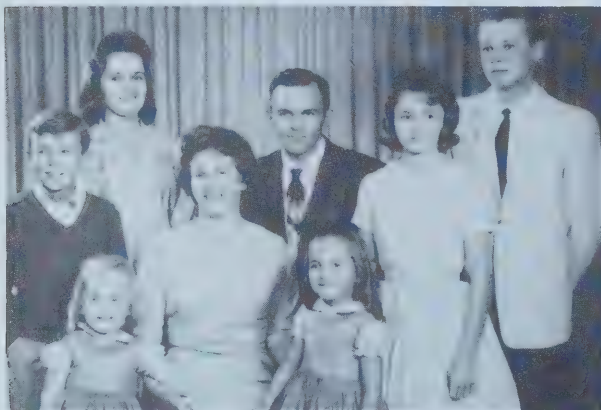
My first introduction to the Roseberry Community was a picnic and sports day sponsored by the F.U.A. which



Four generation picture in front of new house in 1953. Charlie Savard, Grandma Mary Savard, Violet, Jack holding baby Gordon, Eddie, Lorraine and Gloria.

was attended by ninety percent of the farm families from surrounding area and small towns. I guess we promptly got involved with the F.U.A. and for the next twenty-three years we fully participated and became active in every social event sponsored by the F.U.A. and F.W.U.A. Jack participated in the Alberta Wheat Pool, Curling Association in Irma, little league baseball etc. I, myself, during the twenty-three years enjoyed being a member of the W.I., Sew and So Club, some curling, when I had time, and Home and School Association. I would say, however, that our main efforts were directed towards the bringing up of our family, and the farm organization.

I don't think we ever missed an F.U.A. picnic, conference, Christmas concert, or farmer's bonspiel. Our children also took part - often entertaining musically and curling in the farmers' spiels. During this period in the Roseberry District we became parents of five girls and two boys - one baby girl Rose Marie, passed away at a tender age of six weeks.



1962. Jack Savard family. Lorraine, Jack and Eddie, Gordon, Violet and Gloria, Wendy, Marietta.

Our most pleasant memories were of the annual Roseberry F.U.A. picnics and usually before the date of the picnic, many of the men and women would get together and pitch in to prepare for the event. While the men cut the grass, marked out ball diamonds, set up outside booths, etc., the women would give the old school a thorough cleaning. Since our home was close to the school we would gather at our place to pick over beans, chop onions and bacon and chop up salads in preparation for the sports day supper. On the day of the picnic I was sort of elected with my large pressure cooker to make the beans, so I usually didn't appear at the school till one or two o'clock, but the other ladies would make the potato salad (in large containers) boil coffee on the wood stove, make hot dogs and sell pies out of the school windows. We all worked hard but worked well together and it went without saying - if you were a member you wouldn't dare show up without a pie or two. We always did well money-wise, even if it rained - everyone stayed for supper - for where else could you get a plate of home-cooked supper for fifty cents or later seventy-five cents. We always had money to send

delegates to the conventions and our young people to Gold Eye Lake Summer Camp.

Our monthly meetings, handi-craft entries and fall suppers and district conference were well attended and interesting. Whenever I think of the twenty-three years in Roseberry districts that Jack and I and our family spent there, my thoughts seem to turn to the farm organizations and Roseberry picnics and many of the people I grew to know and respect.



Tearing down old house in April, 1950.

In 1950 after we'd settled on the farm for four or five years, we tore down the old log structure in April (with some regrets) and built a new house. It was a summer of many long hours of work as a lot of it was done by ourselves and by September first we were in our new house, practically complete. Our yard and flower beds and my garden were our pride and joy, but in 1968 we decided to stop farming so we sold the farm and moved out to Surrey, B.C. Willertons bought the farm and resold the building site to Don Peltons.

We always enjoy going back and visiting our old friends and neighbors but we are happy living here too. Our children moved to different parts of Canada and are all on their own.

Wendy and Gordon live in Surrey, not too far away. Lorraine in Calgary; Gloria in Salmon Arm; Edward in Dawson Creek; Marietta in Welland Ontario. We are blessed with six grandchildren so far and enjoy travelling around to visit them and their visits to our home, but our thoughts often turn to the Irma and district people and the years we spent there.

FRANK SAVILLE SR.

by Cliff Saville

The first one of our branch of the Saville family to emigrate from England was my father, Frank Greaves Saville. He was born at Glazebrook, near Manchester in Lancashire in the year 1877. At the age of 17, my father left England and came to the N.W.T., into the area which later became Saskatchewan. When he was old enough, he homesteaded in the area of Spy Hill, which is on the eastern border of Saskatchewan. According to my birth certificate, I was born on Section 24, Township 19, Range 31, West of the 1st Meridian.

Three of my uncles, Jack, Ernest, and Thomas, came from England during the following years and were all at

one time living in that area. In those days, when my father homesteaded at Spy Hill, Moosomin was the nearest town, on the main line of the CPR about 44 miles south of Spy Hill. This was only 8 or 10 years after the railway had been built.

During the Boer War, my father joined the 2nd Regiment of the Canadian Mounted Rifles and served in South Africa, then returned to Saskatchewan after the war. He obtained what they called in those days South African scrip, which in his case amounted to a half-section of land up in the Kerrobert area of Saskatchewan. He went up there, and eventually found someone who wanted it, and sold it.

On February 27, 1904 my father married Annie Boles in the Church of England in Moosomin. Her people had come from the Kingston-Madoc area of Ontario in 1872. Mother was a 3rd or 4th generation from Ireland, and was born at Fort Ellice, Manitoba in 1884. Four of the family were born on the homestead, starting with Joseph (the eldest), then Cliff (that's me), Meg and Lorna. By this time it was 1910, and my father decided to sell out and return to England.



Annie and Frank Saville taken in England.

Dad bought the Rookery farm in the county of Suffolk, in a place called Ilketshall, St. Andrews where we lived until 1919. When my parents and the four children arrived in England in 1910, they stayed first of all with my father's parents. This was the first time the Saville family had met our mother. A story goes that my father's mother's first remark was "Eeee! Annie's white!"

By 1919, the family was growing larger so we sold that farm and moved to the Red House Farm at Mendham, Suffolk. That's where we were living when the decision was made to return to Canada. Farming in England after the first war was bad - high taxes, low prices, and in my father's case, a total dislike of the Labour government.

In the summer of 1923 Joe, my elder brother, left there and came to Canada on a so-called "Harvest Excursion". He threshed and worked around Manitoba and Saskatchewan that winter. My father and I left Liverpool, England on April 4, 1924 to come to Canada. We eventually arrived at Portage La Prairie where Joe was, and also my father's brother Jack. We then went on to Calgary, and at Calgary heard of a place at Hardisty which was for sale (not the place we eventually bought, but one in the Battle Bend area owned by a man named Pope). Fred Bone, who was driving us around, took us back to Hardisty where we met H.B. Wood. He took us to the Jim Case ranch on the Battle River, 10 miles northeast of Hardisty. We bought it, and moved out on the 27th of April, 1924, and started to farm the land.

There was quite a lot of cattle with the home place, which was the west half of 6-44-8-W4, along with 5 3/4 sections of government lease which belonged to the Buffalo Park in those days and is now part of the Wainwright Army camp. There were about 130 head of cattle, and 30 or 40 horses, along with all the equipment necessary to farm with horses. We had already put the crop in England in before we left, so at least that year we had crop in two countries. We carried on from there until Mother and the rest of the family came out in November, batching for the summer.

My Uncle Jack had come from Manitoba and was supposed to be the cook. I guess part of the time he was, and the rest of the time I was. Anyway, Mother and the rest of the family arrived and we met the train in the middle of the night with Frank Reber's car (he lived up the road about 3/4 of a mile) and Bud Cotton, who was the warden at the Buffalo Park, and lived up from our place about 2 miles across the river. We met the train, and were all together again for a little while.

Our neighbours at that time were Frank and Myrtle Reber, who lived on the NE quarter of 1-44-9-W4; and the Jim Voros family who lived on the NE of 12-44-9-W4. Across the section on the south half of 18-44-8-W4 lived William Hill, a widower, and his daughter Evelyn; and the Szoke family was on the north half of 18. Of course, in the days of saddle horses, you didn't really travel very far. We bought our first car in 1927 from O.S. Martin, a Chrysler '52.

There were eleven of us: Joseph, myself, Meg, Lorna, Max, Thelma, Harry, Jim, Kathleen, Doreen and Bill. Bill had been born the year before in England so going upward from Bill the average was about 2 years apart. Getting the kids to the Lewisville school turned out to be quite an undertaking. You had to have a fairly quiet team, and we bought a team of horses called Bill and Chink from Earl Tomlinson. They were actually Indian ponies, but they were very good and most of the kids went to Lewisville school at one time or another. After a while we started renting a house in Hardisty from time to time so that some of them who wanted to go to high school did so. Mother eventually owned three houses in Hardisty.

Tragedy struck us in the fall of 1927. My father became ill and died of pneumonia. Doctor McBride was in Hardisty at that time, but of course there was no hospital and no facilities to speak of. Nothing was very handy and

roads were certainly not that good, and he passed away on the ranch. We were suddenly left on our own, and when I look back I think that this was probably the hardest time we had during the period we lived there. We were a large family, and it was up to us to carry on. Of course, we did so and we survived.

By this time Joe was farming independently near Irma, where he remained until he joined the Air Force in 1941. Joe's eldest daughter, Josephine, lives north of Irma (Mrs. Phil Holt).

My mother and I operated the ranch with the help of some of the older members of the family. My father had added to the land by buying out Lou Hansen, the homesteader on the NE 1/4 of 6-44-8, as well as the south half of 7. Mother and I bought more land, added more lease, and of course, increased the cattle and horses.

Then we got into the 30's. It's pretty hard to talk about the 30's - it was a tough time, but on the other hand we were all young and we had lots of fun too. It wasn't all backbreaking. In 1931 we bought a threshing machine and for the next 19 years I did custom threshing between Hardisty and Irma. I switched to combine in 1950 when good help was non-existent. I also rode for seven falls on the drives in the Buffalo Park.

We got hailed out on, I think, three occasions during the period we lived there - 1929, 1940, and 1941 - but I think 1937 has to be the worst year when I look back. It stayed dry all of the early part of the summer. Finally it started to rain in August, and we had the best crop of weeds (pigweeds, in particular) that I ever recall. However, we cut this stuff and put up a lot of feed and got through the winter, but I remember that fall in particular.

Walter Parker, who had been the International agent in Hardisty, had decided that he had had enough and he was moving away. So, in 1937, I took over the international and Imperial Oil from him, and Harry, my younger brother, did the daily work at the office and so on, until one day in 1941 I went into town and Harry (along with many more) had all joined the army. I carried on through the summer, with the help of Dick Downey, and in the fall sold the business to Dick and George Downey.

The war made quite a difference to everyone, and our family was no exception. Jim had joined the Lord Strathcona's Horse (permanent force) in 1937. Harry, Max and Jim had been members of the 19th Alberta Dragoons before the war. Max joined the Edmonton Regiment and went overseas in the fall of 1940 as a lieutenant. Harry, along with Bob Taylor, Bob Wells, John French, Bernie Hendricks, and Cecil Shogren, enlisted in April 1941. Joe Saville joined the Air Force in 1941. Both Harry and Max saw active service. Max was wounded in Sicily in July 1943, and Harry went into Europe with the 4th Division in July 1944.

My mother started a Red Cross lunch stand directly across from Ruttan's Red and White Store (now Harrison's). Her place of business was a thresher's caboose which we hauled from the ranch. Willing volunteers helped her out. Mr. Keifer was her accountant and had many a worrisome session trying to keep accounts and ration books straight.

The family were all growing up and were going their own ways. At the moment, Meg (Mrs. J.F. Waddell) lives in White Rock, B.C.; Joe is in Innisfail; Lorna (Mrs. E.D. Emery) is in Victoria; Max is in Creston, B.C.; Thelma (Mrs. Wm. Macht) is in Victoria; Harry is in St. Albert; Jim is in Phoenix, Arizona; Kathleen (Mrs. G.E. Straughan) lives in Everett, Washington; Doreen (Mrs. Phil Burles) lives at Cardston; and Bill lives on the ranch that he's been on ever since he left Hardisty, out of Ravenscrag, Saskatchewan.

In 1934 I married Jean McLean from Irma. Her parents had homesteaded and were oldtimers in the district, and lived about 20 miles north of our place. Jean was teaching school at Orbindale, north of Irma. In those days when girls got married, they automatically lost their teaching jobs at the end of that particular term, which in our case turned out to be Christmas, 1934. They weren't making very much money - \$840 a year, I think. However, she must have thought I was better than that! We got married and our two children were born at Hardisty - Francis in 1938 and Lorna in 1941. They both got their public and high school education at Hardisty.

Francis is now a lawyer in Calgary and is married to Linda Gooder, a Calgary girl. Her father, Ed Gooder,



Saville family. Frank, Joe, Meg, Cliff, Annie, Lorna, Max, Jimmy, Thelma, Harry, Bill, Doreen, Kathleen.

worked in the bank at Hardisty in the summer of 1924. Lorna was a phys. ed. teacher and is married to Richard Read, who is manager of the Heritage Trust Co. in Calgary, so we are fairly fortunate in having both not far away, and we see our grandchildren occasionally.

We moved into town in 1945. We bought our first place near the town (that was the one that Jack Crocker had, where George Crozier now lives), and after a couple of years we bought the house that we were living in when we left Hardisty in November 1958.

In 1947 Jean returned to teaching at Hardisty, grades five and six in the upstairs of the old school. She still remembers how grateful she was to male members of the Home and School who moved a heavy upright piano into her room. It was quite an undertaking to carry a piano up that long flight of steps. Later she taught in the Hardisty High School handling English, Social Studies and French. When the Hardisty school lost its high school grades, she remained one more year as principal. Previously, she had been Vice-Principal for ten years. She was active in the Alberta Teachers' Association, serving two terms on the Provincial Executive. When she moved to Edmonton, she taught English at Ross Sheppard Composite High School (four years) and headed the English Department at Jasper Place Composite High School for six years, retiring in 1972.

In 1951 I purchased my mother's interest in the ranch, and in 1953 I was approached by the Government of Canada landbuyers. They were there to buy all of the land on the west side of the park (what had been the park and was now the military camp) including the river, and of course this contained much of the leased land we had, and in particular all of the river bottom land. They were prepared to buy the rest of the land as well, so we negotiated a deal on the understanding that I have the use of the land until the first of November, 1954, at which time we moved away. The ranch at this time was made up of three sections of deeded land and 8 3/4 sections of lease.

After Mother sold her interest in the ranch to me in 1951, she moved to Duncan, B.C. where she bought a place not far from my brother Joe. He had a dairy farm there. Mother later sold the place in B.C. and came back to the Lodge at Wainwright, spending part of each winter in B.C. where she stayed with various members of the family. She died in November 1968.

I had by this time become interested in politics and had joined the Liberal Party. I received the nomination as Liberal candidate at a meeting in Wainwright in the fall of 1944 in the Battle River constituency. I ran in the federal elections of 1945, 1949, 1953 and again in 1958. Then, as now, it was not easy for a Liberal to be elected in Alberta.

When we look back across the 56 years since we arrived at Hardisty, we can't help but think of the complete change in agriculture from animal power to the complete mechanization of the industry. Unless new methods are found to run the engines, maybe it will be back to horses within the next fifty years.

JEAN SAVILLE

by Jean Saville

I was born on May 23, 1911 on my father's homestead - S.W. of Section 32, Township 46, Range 8, West of 4th Meridian - ten miles northeast of Irma, Alberta. You may wonder why I put down the quarter-section and there is a reason. When I was very small I would ask where I came from and my parents would reply "Out in thirty-one", that being the open section across the road from us. So at an early age I was section-conscious and have always remembered those two numbers, thirty-one and thirty-two, with any reference to my early childhood always bringing them up from my subconscious.

Later on, there were more concrete reasons for remembering section thirty-one. I always had a saddle horse, and it was my job to get the cows home every night. The first place to look was the open section across the road. That regular riding developed muscles which stand me in good stead even today. In the fall of 1955, when we sold out, I helped drive our herd of cattle the ten miles to the Hardisty stockyards and was still able to move, albeit with some sore spots.

But that is a digression. An education came next. I cannot remember the first day of my school life, but I do remember owning a slate, bound with red and black, and capable of surprisingly shrill squeaks. School was rather sketchy for me the first few years. Because of the distance, I could go only in the fall and spring, missing all the winter months. Being an only child, I had no one to play with, so I read books. Perhaps I should say books and books and magazines and more books. The result was that in a few years I was far above my age in literature, composition and kindred subjects but woefully behind in arithmetic. To this day I like anything connected with English, and I avoid anything to do with mathematics.

High school found me going to the Irma Rural Consolidated High, one of the first in existence. Mr. I.S. Reeds ably handled all the subjects of three grades -- nine, ten, and eleven, in one room.

The next step was Grade 12 at Victoria High School in Edmonton, Alberta. This was my first experience in a multiple-teacher school. I count it a privilege to have had Mr. C.O. Hicks as instructor in trigonometry. I don't remember much of the trigonometry book but I certainly remember a great deal about Mr. Hicks. Much to my surprise I, who had written four sets of departmental examinations successfully, failed miserably in analytical geometry. This failure in geometry was quite a blow to my complacency. Never again would I blindly believe that somehow I would get a pass mark. Incidentally, after I began to teach school, I studied the geometry on my own and made 100 per cent.

Normal school was next in 1928-29, then Education Point, a country school north of my home in the Irma district. There I stayed for five years, during the height or I should say depth, of the depression, getting less money at the end of my tenure and having better qualifications.

In October, 1934, Francis Clifford Saville, a rancher on the Battle River near Hardisty, and I were married. From then on my fortunes were bound up with this same rancher and his ranch, and instead of my handing out

education I was receiving it.

The ranch was on the west side of the Wainwright Buffalo Park, the Battle River running through the middle of the pasture land. The creeks, muskeg, wooded hills and grassy flats made it an ideal place to ride. Even in January the creeks would be free from ice near their sources, and hardy little plants with green leaves could be seen at the edges. In the summer we would often see the buffalo as we rode through our pasture.

In 1939 the Buffalo Park was taken over by the Department of National Defence. All the buffalo were either slaughtered or shipped away. At first the area was used as a German prisoner-of-war camp, then as a Canadian army camp. Eventually, as the camp grew, the authorities decided the river valley was needed for training purposes. The result was that the entire district surrounding us, including all our pasture and farm land, was taken over by the Western Command in November 1954. Other farms expropriated included land originally owned by Frank Weise, Fred White, Sam and Alex Szoke, Bill Hill, George and Joe Rubenok, Henry Alm, Pete and Jim Voros, Roy and Frank Reber, Jack Armstrong, and Earl Tomlinson.

Prior to this we had moved to Hardisty, leaving a foreman in charge at the ranch. When our children reached school age, the local school, Lewisville, had been moved away, so there was nothing to do but go where a school was. This became the pattern all over Alberta, a part of community living which is gone.

Before we were even settled in town, a teacher was needed and in 1947 I took the position. Feeling the need of some extra training, I naturally turned to my favorite subject, English, to start with, finally achieving a Bachelor of Education in 1964.

In 1960, my son and daughter having moved to Edmonton to attend University, we decided to make Edmonton our permanent home. Wishing to continue as a teacher, I was fortunate enough to be accepted at Ross Sheppard Composite High School as a Grade Ten English teacher. In my second year at Ross Sheppard I was appointed Co-ordinator of Grade Ten English, a position entailing responsibility for twenty-three rooms of Grade Ten English. This was in the days of common exams. Imagine expecting the same examination to be suitable for such a wide spectrum of students.

During my teaching career I have been involved in the activities of the Alberta Teacher's Association in a variety of ways. As Hardisty was the geographical centre of the Central East Zone, policy meetings were held there, sometimes twice a year. Later I was elected to the Provincial Executive of the A.T.A. (1958 to 1961). During this time the A.T.A. Specialist Councils were set up. I was appointed to be first president of the English Council. My association with this Council was both valuable and enjoyable.

During 1965-66 I spent an interesting year as Public Relations Officer at Barnett House, a temporary appointment while a staff officer was on sabbatical. The fall of 1966 saw me at Jasper Place Composite High School, heading the English Department. This was a real challenge; the school had a student population of 2200 and the English Department has 22 teachers.

Someone once asked me what was the most important attribute a department head needed. I replied that good legs to deliver books and/or messages to the various teachers. Another teacher was worried about the noise her class made when involved in group work. I asked her whether any work was being accomplished. "Oh, yes," she replied, "but the hubbub drives me mad." "Go to the staff room and have a coffee. That's what I do" I told her. "The only person they are bothering is you."

Quite honestly, I am afraid I never felt quite comfortable with the so-called *enterprise* method. By the time I retired in June 1972 I had seen teaching methods come full circle.

Society today has many cruel things to say about the young, especially high school students. I think I have met all kinds, those on dope, others charged with indictable offences and those at the other end of the spectrum - topflight athletes and academic honors winners. And the majority of them were good people willing to work for me and with me once I had demonstrated responsibility and fairness.

Present-day students are better informed, more aware of their own worth, and have enough confidence to question authority. They are not afraid to ask why or to demand proof of any statement offered as fact. While this is sometimes disconcerting to the teacher, it is to my mind a far better approach than unquestioning acceptance of whatever is said or printed, which happened all too often in the "good old days".

I remember a huge young man in English 33. At J.P.C.H.S. in those years most males were in English 33 for one reason only - to gain enough credits in English to qualify for apprenticeship papers. Anyway I was trying to impress this particular individual that a certain essay was due and I wanted it. The following conversation ensued:

Student: "I can't hand it in today. I have to go to court this afternoon."

Teacher: "Then bring it tomorrow morning."

Student: "But I may be in jail."

Teacher: "Then mail it to me."

End of conversation. He did not go to jail and I finally received the essay. But his attempt to play on my sympathies or to shock me (I don't know which) did not work.

Retirement has been rewarding. But it is not something to be taken for granted. One must find other interests to take up the slack. I found I missed the day-to-day contact with my co-workers more than I did the work itself. But I was ready to retire. During the last two years at J.P.C.H.S., whenever a teacher would come to me with what he/she thought was an innovation I would listen politely but in my heart I was wishing the teacher would just go away and forget about it.

Some of my activities after retirement have been as Commissioner in Federal Census 1976 for our district. Then in 1979 and 1980 I was Election Clerk for Edmonton South for the two federal elections.

Shortly after I retired I was faculty consultant at the U. of A. for three years from 1974 to 1977 for third-year English majors doing their practice teaching. That was extremely interesting. I had on the average 15 students

whom I observed and advised in their junior and senior high practicums. Visiting junior highs was particularly worthwhile. I was amazed at the depth and variety of programs being offered at the various schools. Both public and separate schools were part of the scheme. And invariably the co-operating teachers gave excellent support, probably because those taking students had volunteered to do so.

I believe that any teacher should welcome the chance to take a student teacher or an intern or whatever the profession calls them now, into his or her classroom. It is a chance to help a beginning teacher to avoid some of the pitfalls, an excellent opportunity to build liaison with the Faculty of Education, and finally it is a mark of the professional.

Latterly I have contented myself with less demanding activities. I assisted the Citadel Houselighters in fund-raising for several years until I finally grew tired of working a bingo nearly every month. As in most organizations there is always a relatively small group who are depended upon to do the work.

I continue to attend the Edmonton Branch of the University Women's Club. That club gives bursaries to mature students (women and men) who are returning to university to finish a degree. The bursaries are mostly given to single parents. They are not large but they are large enough (\$200 to \$500) to give a lift to students carrying a heavy financial load. I co-ordinated that for two years and assisted last year.

My husband and I are fortunate to have both our children and their families living in Calgary. Lorna finished a Master of Science in 1981 and is teaching Phys. Ed. in an elementary school in Calgary. Her husband, Richard Read, is the manager of Heritage Savings and Trust in that city. Francis lives at Springbank, a community west of Calgary about twelve miles. The children go to school in Springbank but his law office is in the city. His wife, Linda, leads a busy life hauling children and horses to horse shows, and taking part in Springbank community activities. Lorna's children do competitive swimming.

We quite often look after the children of either family, allowing the parents a much-needed break. Although the task is sometimes demanding, it is the only way really to become acquainted with our grandchildren.

So far our retirement has been spent in Edmonton. We now live in an apartment and try to get away for some of the winter.

JOE AND IRENE SAVILLE

by Josie Holt

Joe and Irene were married in January, 1930 in Wainwright. At first they lived in the Orbindale and Ross districts. Josie, the eldest daughter, was born in Mannville Hospital in April, 1932 while they were living in the Ross district. The family moved thirteen miles south of Irma near where the Pasztors live. Frank, Joe Mac, Charlie and Lorine were born in the Wainwright hospital. Josie, Frank and Joe Mac attended Lewisville school. Their teacher was Miss Ethel Tate. Josie and Frank rode Shetland ponies to school. These ponies, Dot and



Josie Holt, Frank Saville, Joe Mac Saville, Irene Pavely (mother), Charlie Saville, Loraine Rodgers.

Dimples, had been purchased from the Holt ranch when Phil and Barry outgrew them.

Later the Saville family moved back to the Ross district and the children attended school there. During the war Joe and Irene separated and each is since remarried.

Josie attended high school in Irma and worked at the Irma Co-op while the late Vic Torrence was manager. She took a business course at McTavish and worked in the Department of Lands and Forests. Later she worked at the Cancer Clinic in Edmonton. In 1953 Josie married Phil Holt. Their history appears in a different section.

Frank married Marilyn Crawford from Nanaimo, B.C. They have four children and they live at Eckville, Alberta. He raises dairy cattle and is a master showman. Frank is also a butcher by trade.

Joe Mac married Gerry Bascom from Eastend, Saskatchewan, and they have four children. They live on a ranch near Consul, Saskatchewan raising Hereford cattle, Belgians and Quarterhorses.

Charlie married Doris Osterchuck from Mercoal and they live at Valleyview, Alberta. They have two boys. Charlie is in the well-drilling business.

Lorine worked in the Viking hospital and later as a telephone operator in Cold Lake. She married George Rogers from Tofield. They have one daughter, Laura, and live in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where George is a computer technician.

JOHN SAWDON

by Lavinia Harper

Isaac John Samuel Sawdon was born on September 12th, 1877 in Queensville, Ontario.

On January 17th, 1906 he married Ada Ann Oldham, born April 9th, 1877 near Mount Albert, Ontario.

John Sawdon came first to Alberta in the spring or summer 1905. He travelled from Mannville into Orbindale district. He returned to Ontario and was married that winter. In the spring of 1906 he came out to Alberta with two other men from Queensville. Howard Woods

was one of them. He returned to Ontario for the winter.

In the spring of 1907 he and his wife came to Alberta in April. I can remember my mother saying she was the only woman there till into the summer when the other mens' wives and families came. John and Ada Sawdon homesteaded the land where Mr. Lawrence Savage lived and farmed - N.W. 10-47-8-W4th and N.E. 4-47-8-W4th. He worked with three oxen. I can remember them telling about not being able to work with the oxen, when the heel flies were bad. They had sod stables for some of their animals. The hens and geese were in a sod building too.

John Sawdon had the frame house on the N.W. 10-47-8-W4th built. Job Oldham built it the summer of 1907. In the spring of 1908, Job and Abel Oldham plastered the house while living with the Sawdons in a granary. The Sawdons had moved back into the house just two weeks before I, Lavinia, was born. I think the barn would be built about 1915. Mr. Sawdon was a mixed farmer. He grew grain, raised cattle and Clydesdale horses. I know he brought horses up from Ontario, maybe the winter of 1912.

He owned the land up to the time of his death December 3, 1938. In his later years he had the land rented out. In the early days John Sawdon seemed to be the local butcher for the community. I know he was a road boss for a time when they were building roads. He also worked on the first wooden railway trestle at Fabyan. The slough near the farm was called Sawdon Lake. In the early days young people used to skate on it, putting their horses in the barn at Sawdons.

Lavinia, born May 7, 1908 was the first white child born in the Orbindale district. She went through for a bookkeeper. She is married and living in Ontario.

Frank, born January 25, 1910--1911, died with scarlet fever. He is buried on the farm near the northeast corner of the northwest quarter of No. 10.

Evelyn, born January 9, 1913. She went through for a public school teacher. She is married and living in Ontario.

Elva, born January 7, 1914. She went through for a public school teacher. She is married and living in Ontario.

Edith, born May 6, 1916--1918, died with scarlet fever. She is buried on the farm.

Jessie, born June 7, 1918--1920, died with scarlet fever. She is buried on the farm.

Arthur, born April 15, 1921. He was in the Second World War. He is working in a factory. He is married and lives in Ontario.

Hazel, born December 12, 1922. She stayed with mother till she was married. She is living in Ontario.

Lavinia's accident was on September 19, 1917. Her right leg below the knee was bitten by a stallion while riding horse back. The leg was amputated below the knee on January 31, 1926.

The older Sawdon children attended school at Orbindale, Roseberry and Avonglen, also Sunday School and Church in these schools during the summer months when there were student ministers.

The Sawdon family moved back to Ontario in April, 1924. Mr. Sawdon went back and forth to Alberta. I believe the last time he was home in Ontario was the

winter of 1936. John Sawdon died suddenly at Mr. Savage's place on December 3, 1938. He was buried in the Irma cemetery. Mrs. John Sawdon died June 4, 1946. She is buried in Hartmen cemetery near Mount Albert, Ontario.

MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR SCHAEFFNER

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Schaeffner and two sons Laurie and Willowby came to Western Canada from Nova Scotia about 1907, first to Boissevain, Manitoba and later to the Irma district. They came to Alberta about 1911 and the father homesteaded SW 36-45-10 while Willowby homesteaded the NE 36-45-10 and Laurie SW 12-45-10. While their house was being built they lived in a dugout on the south side of the railway tracks that had been used by the C.N.R. crew to store vegetables while laying the track. Lumber for their house was shipped from Nova Scotia and is the old homestead house still standing on the farm of Ernest and Jean Rae. It is believed that it was in this house that daughter, Blanche, was born.



Original Schaeffner house lived in by Jean and Ernie Rae, it's still standing.

The Schaeffners continued to farm their homesteads until about 1925 when due to a mortgage they lost the homestead. Times were hard. They were a friendly family enjoying company and playing cards. Laurie had worked in the Municipal Office and in Dickson's store. Blanche married Ross Phillips who had a farm near the Hollars. The senior Schaeffners moved to Kinsella and later to Pouce Coupe and passed away in the Peace River country. Ross and Blanche lived near Dawson Creek where some of their family remain. Ross passed away a few years ago.

Ernest Rae, found on the farm, and still uses a double bitted axe that came from Nova Scotia.

SCHLENDER FAMILY

by Nellie (Schlender) Kehler

Jonathan and Olga Schlender came to Canada from Western Russia in late summer of 1926. They were a young couple in their early twenties with one child born November 6th, 1925. They immigrated to Canada to

escape the revolutions and civil wars rising up in Russia. They sold all they had and used their money to pay for their fare to Canada. Jonathon became very seasick en route but got better. After landing they came to Regina, Saskatchewan area and got work on a farm for a year or so and then they came to the Kinsella - Irma area. Here they again worked on farms. In 1929 they had another daughter, Adeline, born in the Viking hospital.

In 1929 they purchased a farm in the Albert school district twelve miles north of Irma. They purchased a quarter section of land with some buildings on a time payment plan from Mr. Emil Wirth. They also started to buy cattle, horses and machinery - so they could start farming. Their money was soon spent as at this time prices were very high. As they could not speak English it was difficult to do business in a language they could not understand. In the next two years they got a herd of cattle started and had some horses and some chickens, turkeys and ducks.

They had a son, Elmer, born in 1930. Then in 1932 they had another daughter, Alice, born on April 2. Both these babies were born at home with very little medical care.

On April 8, 1932 my dad got up at night to light a fire in the stove to warm up the room for the baby and as he looked out the whole barnyard was on fire. This was the time the raiders of Irma decided to drive out all the newcomers in the district. Dad thought that all our cattle, horses and other farm animals were burned in the fire, but in the morning we discovered that they had driven the cows and horses out of the barn. But our poor poultry were running around with burned off feathers and looked like naked scarecrows, that is, the ones that were left and not burned to death.

During this night the raiders had burned fifteen buildings in the area. This was done by the people that wanted the land for ranching and did not want foreigners occupying this land. They had hired a man or group of men to do the burning or carry out the scare tactics in the area, but the whole community knew about the raids and whom they were trying to get out of the area. A young Ukrainian couple purchased some land from the municipality on a homestead plan. They built a small

house and barn and got some animals and started to farm. This farm was just east of our land and they too were burned out completely. The raiders even set fire to their house while they were sleeping. This couple had purchased harness and equipment and everything was burned, so they left the district with nothing, no money, no property and nothing to show for their years of hard work. They were lucky that they were still alive.

These raids went on for a period of three years. The year after our barns were burned they shot two good cows which were going to have a calf just any day. Mother was so happy as this meant we would have milk for our table and maybe there might be a little money from the cream they hoped to ship. During this time farm fences were cut on a regular basis. A group of men would go in the fields and shoot guns and whatever to scare people. It sounded just like war. Our dog was shot so he would not bark to let Mother and Dad know anyone was around. The neighbor came and gave or sold Dad a gun and then the police came and threatened to put him into jail as he did not have his naturalization papers so therefore was not a Canadian citizen. This fact the neighbors must have known so we knew the whole community knew of these terrible events and scare tactics to drive the newcomers out. But it was not easy to go. The hungry thirties were in full grip at these times. Money was very scarce, work was scarce and the folks found the language difficulties a great barrier.

Both Mother and Dad had gone through the First World War but there were many people going through it. Going through this time in Irma was worse as they were among the few that suffered and they had a family to feed and clothe so this took my mother's health.

During these years they had more children: Arthur was born in 1934; Lily was born in 1937; Evelyn in 1938; Leonard in 1940. Then in 1941 my folks were able to rent a farm close to Irma so they moved. Ronald was born in 1943.

We lived five miles away from any school so we only went to school at times. We went to Albert school some of the time and sometimes to Education Point school. Our education was by correspondence lessons. When the folks moved three miles out of Irma we went to school in



Standing: Evelyn, Elmer, Adeline, Lenard, Nellie, Arthur, Alice, Ronald, Lily. Sitting: Dad and Mother and some of the grandchildren.

Irma.

Now, the oldest daughter, Nellie, lives in Edson, Alberta. She has four children. Adeline lives in Edmonton and has two children. Elmer is a carpenter and has built many houses in Hinton and Edson area, but is now living in Nova Scotia, married and has two girls. Alice is living in Dawson Creek, married and had three children. Arthur and Leonard are in the building business in Edmonton, Leduc, Wetaskiwin, Vegreville and Tofield, area. Arthur is married and has four children. Leonard is married and has three children. Lily is married and lives in Leduc and has four children. Evelyn lives in Mannville and has two children. Ronald lives in Edson and owns his own sports store. He is married and has two children.

Jonathon Schlender died at his home in Edmonton on November 4th, 1971. Olga Schlender is still quite healthy and lives in her beautiful home in Edmonton. She is now eighty years young.

THE SCHOENKNECHT FAMILY

by Mrs. Irene Glasgow Schoenknecht

I was born in 1925, the youngest of a family of five; Gerald, Myrtle, Dorothy, Albert and myself. I attended school in Irma and then worked at the Egg Grading Station there. later went to work in Edmonton and then New Sarepta where I met and married Ewald Schoenknecht, a truck driver, in 1945. We lived in Rolly View where he hauled freight and milk for Robert Grams and later Otto Bluementhal. We then purchased an acreage in Hay Lakes where Ewald had two trucks and hauled gravel and did general trucking in the district. We next bought a farm (Kellert) in 1958. We then spent a year at my brother Albert's farm and then bought a half section of land in Hondo in 1965.



Irene (Glasgow) and Ewald Schoenknecht Family: Gloria, Brian, June, Ewald, Audrey, Irene, Laura, Larry.

My sister Myrtle and her husband Bob Patterson homesteaded in Honto in 1932. They had two boys and lived there until 1969 when they retired in Edmonton where Myrtle died in 1983. Bob still lives there.

Ewald worked for Hays Transport of Smith and later at Federated Co-op Sawmill, Smith.

We have six children; Larry, June, Glorea, Laura, Brian and Audrey. They are all married now and we have fourteen grandchildren.

We moved to Camrose in 1978 and are now managers for the Blackburn Mobile Home Park.

My mother and dad died in 1953, brother Gerald in 1963 and sister Dorothy in 1962. My brother Albert still lives in Irma.

SCHROEDER BROTHERS

From memory of Elsie (Bridgeman) Dewar

Two brothers, Emil and Jewel, came from Chicago and homesteaded the W. 1/2 30-27-9. It is believed they came to Alberta in 1914 or 15. They built a small shack and carried out the homestead requirements of the day. Emil, or Curly, as he was known, played the piano and would often come to the Bridgeman home and entertain them for a couple of hours at a time. He also taught Elsie the keys on the piano.

It is believed they farmed with oxen to start with. Some of the settlers coming in in those days, came with a few horses or cows, some machinery, but these two brothers came with nothing and stuck it out for eight or nine years.

One year two girlfriends came from Chicago. Arnold Christenson had the livery stable at Jarrow, so he brought them from Jarrow and deposited them at the Bridgeman home. George drove them up to the Schroeder homestead and what a surprise to those city gals coming from Chicago to a bachelor's shack! They came back and stayed at the Bridgemans. They had been there about ten days when an accident happened. They were taken for a ride in the democrat and the team ran away and Margaret got her leg broken. She ended up in the Royal Alex hospital in Edmonton. Curly accompanied them to the city and he never did get back to the homestead. He returned to Chicago with them, where later he married Emma and they had twin babies, Ralph and Ruth. Soon after Jewel followed and married Margaret.

After they went back to Chicago, a beautiful Christmas box was received with chocolates for the adults and two bone bracelets set with rhinestones for Elsie, a much valued gift for a little girl in those days. These same bracelets have been handed down to Elsie's daughters. Schroeder's farm is now owned by Nerine Hunter and Claudia Williams.

EMIL SCOGG

The Scogg family settled across the Battle River about one mile south of Peter Voros. Their only son Elmer attended Lewisville school. The Scoggs used Irma as their town. After their land was taken over by the Army Camp the family moved to Edmonton.

JOHN L. SCOTT FAMILY

by Janet O. "Jenny" Elliott

John Scott, my father, a highly skilled carpenter, was born in Scotland in 1871. He heard the propaganda and yielded to the urge of the call to the land in Alberta, Canada.

He arrived in Edmonton in the spring of 1906, worked at his trade, bought a lot and built a house. Dad then sent for my mother, Jeannie, my sister Bessie, my aunt Elizabeth Scott and myself. We landed in Edmonton in May of 1907.

Three years later Father filed on a homestead north of Kinsella. The location was the N.W. 24-48-11. Our carload of settler's effects, I have been told, was the first to be unloaded at Kinsella. My parents named our farm "Inveresk".

By this time Aunt Elizabeth had her own millinery store and remained in Edmonton.

At first, on arrival at Kinsella in July of 1910 we lived in a small, log cabin on Tom Cormack's homestead until Dad could dig a well, build a house and a small log barn. The house was not nearly ready by the fall of the year but we moved in in November anyway. The work had been slowed down as Dad had an accident. The horses ran away and he was run over by the wagon, getting his ribs broken. There was no doctor, but Mother looked after him. She had taken a course in first aid and home nursing before coming to Canada. Dad did the best he could. There was only his wife and two young daughters to help him. We did what we could. Bessie was twelve years old and I was seven.

The family homestead days were difficult. Mother and Dad had much to learn about making a home in a strange land and learning how to farm. Neither had any previous experience in farming.

The homestead was one hundred and sixty acres of virgin land. There were no roads, no fences, no wells, no buildings, no schools, no churches and of course none of the modern conveniences such as cars, telephones, electricity, running water, radios or television. etc.

In our yard were many little circles of stones where the Indians had made their camp fires. The prairie was littered with buffalo bones. There were deep trails where they had trekked to water, and the wallows where they had rolled on the hillside. We children used the buffalo skulls in our playhouse as chairs. They were not very satisfactory as we seemed to slide off them. The wallows were our trenches when playing soldiers.

Our post office and town of Kinsella were twelve miles away. It took almost all day to go there and back.

The other homesteaders in the area were much like ourselves - from the British Isles. There were a few Canadians and some families from the United States. There were hardly any children and quite a few bachelors. On our section was big, strong, good natured Jim Hoskins and a kindly, gentle, Irishman by the name of Charlie Irwin who used to tell me fairy tales about "the wee folk". One story I still recall was that you must always put a hole in the bottom of an egg shell or a fairy will use it for a boat and sail away from Ireland. He had a nice riding horse and would sometimes let me ride it. I

never knew the other gentleman who farmed the other quarter section, but I believe his name was Pickard.

On coming to the Kinsella district, my father purchased two mares, Jess and Floss, from Bert Travis, a horse rancher. Also purchased were two cows from a Minburn businessman by the name of Bailey.

My most vivid memories of the first winter on the homestead are of being cold. We had only soft wood to burn in a small heater and a small cook stove. The water pails had to be emptied at night or they would be frozen solid by morning. Mother used to dip the cutlery in hot water before it could be used, otherwise the cold metal would stick to our lips and take the skin off.

Fortunately Mother brought good woolen blankets and clothes from Scotland. No woman or girl wore slacks in those days. Sometimes we girls would put on boys' overalls when working at haying or stooking.

My memory of our first Christmas was of the bad weather and trails preventing my father from getting to town for our supplies. Christmas mail and parcels came from the T. Eaton mail order house and Scotland. We didn't have a Christmas tree. Bessie and I hung up our stockings with all the faith in the world. Mother did her best to fill them up with candy, cookies and what she could find in trunks and dresser drawers. But the gift I liked most of all was a can of "Brunswick Sardines".

Finally spring came with its warm breezes, beautiful green grass which attempted to cover the black scars of charred prairie caused by a bad prairie fire the year before we arrived. There were the hillsides covered with purple crocuses, the bushes of pink Alberta roses and so many, many other kinds of flowers, but very few weeds.

A never ending joy to a little girl with no children to play with was the singing and chirping of the birds that still were able to find a few trees missed by the prairie fire. The calves, colts, and chickens, as well as a dog and cat were good substitutes as playmates.

Although rather small, I was able to help quite a lot cutting and bringing in wood, drawing water from the well, gathering eggs, pulling greens for the pigs, helping clear the land of brush and stones and getting the cows in at milking time. Bessie was a great help both in and out of the house.

In July of 1912 a baby girl was born to our family. She was named Margaret. Dad called her his "Wee Prairie Chicken". Things were getting better. We were becoming more used to the isolation, the work and our new way of living. There was still no school.

In January of 1913 I was sent to school in Edmonton and boarded with friends. By the end of the term in June I had my grade one and could read a little. That fall Dad got title to his homestead, having completed all of the requirements to do so. He was not well and Mother was very homesick for her large family and many friends in Scotland. The Viking doctor advised a good rest for both of them.

In December of that year we all went to Scotland by way of train and steamship. We stayed three months. Margaret was christened, I attended school, Bessie and Mother had a delightful time. Dad seemed to spend most of his time by an open fireplace reading books about Canada - that was where his heart lay.

We got back to Kinsella in April, ready and eager to get busy. A pony was purchased for me to ride to school. That spring I attended Lake Alice School and got my grade two. By August we finally had our Rodino School.

There was very little social life in those days. At home Bessie played the piano and Dad and I would sing to our hearts content. Margaret seemed to be in a little world of her own with her amazing imagination, her dolls and her books.

In winter we would occasionally go to visit neighbors or have friends in for supper. When going visiting, it always had to be after the chores were done and when there was a full moon, otherwise we might get lost crossing the open prairie in the dark.

Later came the school concerts. Sometimes there was a dance in a barn loft or at a school. To me the most fun of all was the Camp Lake picnic. I don't think there was much organizing done but word would get around and people would come by buggy, wagon, stoneboat, horseback or on foot. The picnic grounds were on the Con Powel homestead. The Powels were a kindly, friendly family who never seemed to mind people coming to enjoy bathing in the lake or playing baseball on their field.

In August of 1914, shock, sadness, sorrow, grief and pain came by the declaration of the first World War. Many of our finest young men joined the armed forces and fought on the battlefields of Europe. Some returned with brides, some came back crippled, but many never returned home again. Those were grim years. News papers were our only way of getting news. The war news was often very bad and there were long casualty lists.

I believe it was in 1917 that Bessie went to Edmonton to continue her education after being out of school for seven years. Bessie worked hard and in a few years completed her high school. She then went to the University of Alberta graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1926. Bessie worked at home on the farm during the school holidays. After University she attended Normal School in Calgary. Then a teaching career until her marriage in 1931 to Rick Larson, a farmer in the Irma area. There was no financial help for Bessie to go to school except what her parents could manage and her ability to work for her room and board



Mrs. Jeannie Scott, Mrs. Bessie Larson's mother, second from left in the back row.

in a private home.

I continued school at Rodino. Margaret attended Rodino school as well. She then went on to Kinsella and Minburn for her high school. After that was Normal School at Camrose and a teaching career in the one room schools of that era.

In July of 1919 John Elliott came back after nearly five years in the war zone. His father, David Elliott and his brother Ed, farmed northeast of Kinsella.

David Elliott took up his homestead in 1905. John farmed for several years. He and I were married in March of 1922. In the fall of 1925, after several dried out crops, John and I with our two little daughters Jean and Kathryn, left and went to Edmonton. My husband spent the rest of his life working with the Canadian National Railways.

In July of 1939 Margaret married John Stuemer, a farmer in the Millet district.

By then John and Jeanie Scott were alone on their homestead farm. There had been the first World War, the dry years, the Great Depression and now the second World War. They were unable to do all the work themselves. It was a hard time for them with failing health and old age. Mother had always enjoyed her association with the Women's Institute and was a charter member of the Kinsella group and received a life membership. She had many friends all over the Province. Mother died in September of 1944. Father then sold the farm and was living with Bessie when he died in 1945. They are both buried in the Kinsella cemetery.

Last summer, my son David Elliott, drove into the homestead yard. There seemed to be nothing left, trees growing where the buildings had been, a stone foundation, an old Christmas card, the collar off a neck yoke and in some rubble, a silver teaspoon was all that was to be found.

Bessie passed away in 1976. We all miss her very much.

However, the life line goes on. John and Jeannie Scott's descendents now number sixty-four.

One memory of myself as a young child comes to mind. I learned that everyone, just everyone should have a Will. I thought about it and decided "yes I am someone". I asked Bessie to write my Will. The only thing I now remember about that Will is that "to my sister Bessie I bequeathed my gopher traps".

Such was the Scotts' life on a prairie homestead.

ALICE (ENGER) SEGUIN

I was born in the Crescent Hill district and lived there until I was five years old at which time we moved just north and east of Irma and lived there until we moved into town after the death of my father.

My entire schooling was in Irma and I graduated in 1952. Many memories are associated with those twelve school years. It was great fun to be able to go home because the furnace went out. Those of us who lived in town were allowed to take a friend who didn't live in town, home with us until the school warmed up again.

As a good portion of my earlier school years were during World War Two, a goodly number of our activities were military orientated. Our "Junior Com-

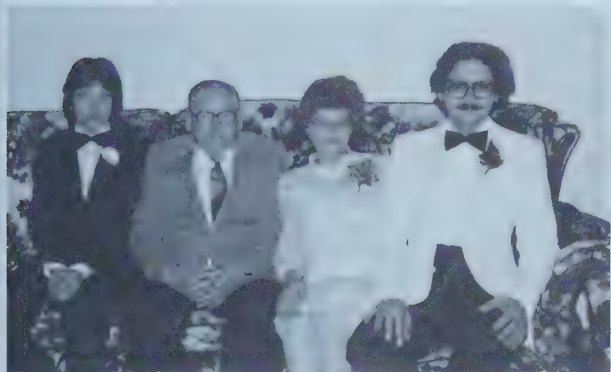
mando" Club, with Lyle Raham as our illustrious leader, gave us unlimited hours of amusement. However it seems to me that the "Victory Garden" we helped maintain was in fact Lyle's way of getting help to perform his odious chore of weeding his family's garden.

Grade Four was a trying year for me. Early in the Fall of that year, while playing Follow the Leader, on the Stockyard fence, I fell and broke my collar bone. It was my right one and because I'm right-handed it was a problem to write. Poor Mrs. Holt, what a time she had to read my poorly written notes. Then came spring - poor me - as Mrs. Holt insisted I rewrite the whole book - after school mostly!

Due to the time and circumstances of my early years in Irma most of our entertainment was of the group innovated type. Sometimes our ideas of having a good time did not meet the criteria of our parents. I'm thinking in particular of the time Jean Guiltner, Elvina Soneff and I went swimming at MacKay's Lake after explicitly been forbidden to do so! It was a one and only time for that - believe me!

Freight trains on the siding tracks were glorious places to play. It was a challenge to see who could go from one end of the train to the other without touching ground.

After I graduated I moved to Wainwright where I obtained employment at the Wainwright Municipal Hospital. I also spent six months supervising school at Giles District, north of Edgerton. Later I worked at the Treasury Branch.



Seguin Family: David, Ray Alice, Philip.

In 1954 I married Raymond Seguin and we have four children. We lived in Wainwright until 1971 at which time Raymond's employment with Weston Bakeries necessitated a move to Edmonton. We reside there still as Raymond is still with the bakery. I am employed as Senior Operations Officer for the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Three of our children are married and we have four grandchildren.

Although we live in Edmonton, both Raymond and I think of Irma and Wainwright as home and visit often.

SELLARS FAMILY

Mrs. Sellars and her daughter Clara came from Ontario in 1908 to join her son Travis who had established a

farm east of Irma S.W. 22-45-8, in the Sunny Brae district. Mrs. Sellars was quite elderly and passed away a few years later.

Travis was a member of the Sunny Brae and later the Irma Rural High School board. For years he was the local photographer, taking pictures of families or social events. He developed his own pictures. Travis owned a steam threshing machine which had a screen over the smoke stack to keep sparks from flying. For years he threshed for neighbors in the Sunny Brae and Roseberry districts. Travis passed away in 1923, a victim of typhoid fever. The Sellars land was sold to Martin and Ole Enger.



1913. Back Row: Miss C. Sellars, Mrs. Smart, Willie Smart, Mr. Smart, Mrs. Sellars. Front Row: Travis Sellars, Andrew Smart and visitor.

Clara Adela Sellars continued to live on the Enger farm until 1930 when she married John Gubbins, a childhood sweetheart. They made their home in Arcade, New York and later in Bliss, New York.

While here Clara was an active worker for and a strong supporter of the United Church. She continued her Christian support in the Baptist Church of Bliss. Clara passed away April 13, 1962 at the age of eighty-two years.

Mrs. Sellars and Travis are buried in the Irma cemetery.

PETRUS SELLSTEDT FAMILY

Petrus, or Pete, as he was known at Irma, was born in Solleftea, Sweden in 1871. He came to the United States in 1903 and to Canada in 1907. He homesteaded S.W. 16-46-9-W4th north of Irma where he spent the rest of his life. He married Katharin who was born at Ramsele, Sweden in 1875. Three boys Harry, Klein and Bertil were born to this marriage.

Mrs. Sellstedt came to join her husband in 1909 on the homestead. She didn't go out very much as she found the English language hard to master. The Sellstedts enjoyed company and the coffee pot was always on.

Harry was in World War I and when he returned he bought land from the Soldier Settlement Board in the Ross district. He owned a breaking outfit and one summer broke eighty acres for Grover Arnold. He joined the service in World War II and went overseas. Upon his discharge he made his home in Edmonton where he still



*Klein Sellstedt,
Lawrence White and
Fenton Nash, 1932.*

lives.

Klein went to school at Ross and then farmed until his death in 1972. He never married, but was a very clean bachelor and the neighbors enjoyed visiting at his home.

Bertil was born in 1912 and was best known for taking part in many community affairs. Bertil received his early schooling at Ross and took his high school in Irma, later, farming in the Ross district. He was a director of the Irma Co-operative Association, was a member of the Elks Lodge at Irma and was President of the Ross Local F.U.A.

Bertil passed away as a result of a car-train accident at Irma in 1953.

Petrus Sellstedt passed away in 1949 while Mrs. Sellstedt died in 1950.

J.N.C. SETON FAMILY

submitted by Norma (McConachie) Thomas

Mr. Beckett Thompson sold his homestead, S.E. 36-45-9-4, to J.N.C. Seton. Uncle Nigel, Auntie and I moved to Irma in the spring of 1918. This land was in the Sunny Brae School District.

The crops were in and looked good but a killing frost in July flattened everything. 'Twas a bleak year for everyone. We combed the fields for anything edible for the animals and had to buy hay and grain. We had a sow and eight piglets and four Clydesdale horses.

The Setons worked hard. They built up the homeplace with good buildings and good fences. He bought a quarter of C.P.R. land across the road from the homeplace. He later sold this quarter on Section 31-45-8-4, to Roy Askin. He also bought a half section along the Gratton Coulee for hay and pasture. Uncle was known for his seed grains.

The community was important to them. Mr. Seton was on the Sunny Brae School Board and later on the High School Board in Irma. He helped start the Anglican Church in Irma. He was a charter member of the Masonic Lodge.

Mrs. Seton took an active part in the Ladies Aid of the United Church. When the Anglican Church started she worked diligently in any way possible with this project.

Mr. Seton was born in Scotland. He passed away in

January 1929; I do want to say that my Uncle was a very respected member of the community and worked hard for improvements.

As my Aunt was a frail little thing, we sold the farm after Uncle's passing and moved to Edmonton. She sold her house in 1935 and moved to Vancouver with her adopted son, Charles. She died in 1943 and is buried in the Irma Cemetery beside her husband.



*Mrs. McKay, Norma McConachie, Mrs. Seton,
Mrs. Watkinson, and Suzy McKay in front.*

Charles Seton married a Vancouver girl in 1938. He joined the Army in 1939 and spent two and a half years overseas. On his return he established a mink farm in Surrey B.C. He died very suddenly in 1965. His widow and two grown children, a son and a daughter, live in Calgary.

Norma McConachie, Mrs. Seton's niece, was more of a daughter having gone to live with them at the age of four years. I attended Sunny Brae School until High School days. I rode horseback to High School.

Mr. I.S. Reeds was our teacher and I respected him highly. I moved to Edmonton with Mrs. Seton and Charles. I attended U. of A. for one year, then started my Nurse's Training at the Royal Alex Hospital.

I moved to Vancouver and worked at the General Hospital. In 19____ I "pulled up stakes" and decided to try the United States. There I met my husband. We were married in the Fall of 1939 in Vancouver at my Aunt's home.

We have lived in California for the last twenty years. We have one daughter, an attorney.

OTTO SETTER

Otto Setter was raised at Amisk, Alberta. Margaret Szoke was raised on a farm in the Lewisville district where she attended school. Margaret became a hair-dresser and had shops in Hardisty and Irma. At Irma she had a room in May Long's house where she did hair-dressing.

Otto and Margaret were married in 1942 and they settled on the Sam Szoke farm at Lewisville. Three girls

were born to them and they attended Strawberry Plains school as Lewisville was closed. Doreen (Church) and Marion (Craig) live at Airdrie, Alberta, while Marlene (Campbell) lives at Olds.

Besides farming, Otto was a carpenter and helped build elevators and annexes. They moved to Calgary around 1955. Margaret passed away in 1981 and since then Otto makes his home at Olds.

ED SHARKEY

Edward Ervy Sharkey was born in Pigeon Lake, Alberta on March 26, 1913, the son of Edward Ervy Sharkey, a Frenchman who immigrated to Alberta from Milwaukee, Wisconsin around 1900. Mary Katlick, his mother, was also from the States.

When Ed was three or four, his family moved to the Irma community from Pigeon Lake by horses and wagon. They lived in a sod house south and west of Irma. From there they moved into Irma. Mrs. Sharkey worked in a restaurant while Mr. Sharkey worked on the railway. Then, for health reasons of Mrs. Sharkey, they moved to Banff for a couple of years where Mr. Sharkey worked for the town. When they moved back they settled on the site where Ed Jr. now lives. To make a living Mr. Sharkey Sr. owned a dairy and sold milk at one dollar and fifty cents for a dozen quarts. He was also the first caretaker of Irma's skating rink. At the age of fourteen Ed Jr. was expelled from school so his father told him if he was old enough to get expelled from school he was old enough to go to work. And work he did at many different jobs. At first he worked with his dad at odd jobs and for farmers. Then he moved to Edmonton and became a licensed coalminer. For five years he did this until World War 2 broke out, at which time he joined the army at Edmonton. From there he was transferred to Halifax to become a member of the Coastal Artillery. While there he was also in charge of physical training of all the men

including officers. Several times he tried to transfer out of this unit so he could go overseas but one of the officers kept taking his name off the list because he didn't want him to leave their unit. Ed then heard of a special unit that was forming in the States made up of both Americans and Canadians. Through a little devilishness he was able to transfer to this unit before anyone found out. The First Special Service Force was the name of this unique unit. It was later nicknamed The Devils Barrage by the Germans because of their daring and sneaky manoeuvres against them. After training in the States was over, the F.S.S.F. was sent to the Aleutian Islands to capture it from the Japanese but the Japanese had left by the time they got there. Next they were shipped to Africa, France and Italy. While in Italy Ed was commissioned in the field of battle to First Lieutenant.

After the war Ed married Alice Mikkelsen on November 15, 1945. Since then he has had several jobs; owned a dray service, worked in the local foundry, the butcher shop, was one of the first bus drivers, worked in Camp Wainwright, worked on heavy equipment all over Alberta, was town policeman, town foreman, ran the arena and then worked for the M.D. of Wainwright after which he retired.

During this time he and Alice had four children: Douglas who lives in Edmonton, Dwayne who lives in Blue Ridge, Roger of Edmonton and Joanne who lives in Irma. Alice, who passed away in January 1980, was an excellent cook. She cooked in the Irma Hotel and in the officers' mess in Camp Wainwright. While working in Camp, Sylvia Tyson told Alice her clam chowder was second to none, which pleased Alice very much. She received many compliments from the officers and guests who ate there.

In his younger years Ed played hockey and then coached in the Gas Line League. He also coached a women's softball team, little league baseball, and curled.

Now that Ed is retired he keeps active by fixing small motors, sharpening skates, working in his garden and with his birds. Having lived in Irma most of his life, Ed remembers the community as it was more than sixty-five years ago and the many business people who have come and gone.

AVIS (SATRE) SHAW

We lived across the road from Sivert and Lena Nilson when I was a preschooler. I remember Erling as a first playmate and going to Lena's for Rogers Syrup and Saltene crackers - what a treat! The first years of school were at Strawberry Plains. I was terrified of many of the bigger kids and the Halloween torture chamber they set up in the basement of the school.

When I was in grade four we had moved to Uncle Hans Christenson's to live until dad fixed up the house on the former Christenson farm. Glenholm was my school that year. When we moved to our farm, that put us in the Flagstaff municipality, so I transferred to Coal Springs school. There were only seven children attending Coal Springs in grade eight and nine. One event I will always remember was the night Gordon Hollinger and I changed horses on the way from school. We were riding along,



Ed Sharkey, Sr.

when the horse I was on began to waver. I jumped off and the horse fell over in the ditch. Gordon pulled the saddle off him immediately. He was dead. I walked my fat shetland pony all the way home for fear that he would succumb to the same fate as Tony.

Grade Ten was in Irma High. I boarded at Hagers. The rest of high school was taken at the Lutheran College in Camrose. This was one of the most enjoyable times of my life. Norma Likness and I went off to the Misericordia in Edmonton for our nurses training in 1953. Evelyn Erickson, Doreen Simmermon, Alma and Norma King and two girls from college were there also. We became special friends in training.

While there, I met a patient named Willard Shaw. In those days you would always check the cardex to see what his religious affiliation was. He was Protestant! After he was discharged, I had forgotten about him when a phone call came through for me. Later I was to learn that he was afraid I would refuse to go out with him, so he had his brother make the date. We dated for two years before marrying in 1957. Willard's family are originally from Tomahawk, Alberta.

I worked for three months in Wainwright hospital before going back to the Charles Camsell in Edmonton. After working shift work for a while, we decided the regular hours at Baker Clinic were more acceptable. I was there a year and a half. I was privileged to work for Dr. Ben Wheeler, (originally from Edgerton. His prisoner of war story was in the August issue of "Reader's Digest").

Willard and I have four children: Dianne, our oldest, is married to Bruce McRae. They have a wee daughter, Erin Lynn. Bruce and Dianne have a restaurant and lounge in St. Albert. They live in West Edmonton.

Heather is married to Tom Dawnie and they have a son, Tyler Jackson. Heather worked as a secretary before going to work at the restaurant in St. Albert. She waitressed and did bookkeeping for Bruce. Tom is an electrician. He came from the Hardisty-Alliance area as a child. They live in St. Albert.

Darren worked for All Trans transportation company, but is currently unemployed.

Roger is at Jasper Place Composite High. He works at Toy City in West Edmonton Mall. He hopes to take mechanics at N.A.I.T.

Willard is Terminal Operations manager for Canadian Freightways. Mike Dubasz, formerly of Irma, is one of

his drivers.

Life has been good to us. Our life is busy with family and friends, to keep us happy and caring. We are fortunate to still have parents to be involved with our lives.

MR. AND MRS. TOM SHAW

by Orril (Fischer) Darling

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Shaw homesteaded the northeast quarter of 14-46-9 about 1907. Mr. Wellington Shaw, Tom's father, homesteaded the northwest quarter of the same section at about that time, too.

The Shaws came from Ontario where Mrs. Shaw had taught school for a short time. In September of 1911 Mr. Wellington Shaw sold place, stock and implements for \$4500, and he and his wife returned to Ontario. I do not know to whom he sold.

Later Mrs. Shaw's sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Schaeffer farmed that quarter section of land for a number of years. Finally they returned to Hamilton, Ontario where they continued to live.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaw were hard working, kind neighbors. In the early years of homesteading, like many others, Mr. Shaw worked off the farm in winter to raise much needed cash. For a number of years he worked at McBride, B.C. either in bush or coal mine and Mrs. Shaw cooked for the camp men. They returned in the spring to plant crop and to improve more land to meet homestead requirements.

Mrs. Shaw was a real homemaker and like other pioneer women looked after a garden and kept poultry. An incident tells of her determination and courage. Their house was built on a small hill with the other farm buildings to the west and at a lower level. The Shaw's hens were white and especially noticeable to coyotes. One day Mrs. Shaw, being alone at the time, noticed a coyote make off with a hen and disappear beyond the barn and a



Willard and Avis Shaw.



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Shaw.

bluff near it. As she watched, the coyote soon returned to the henhouse. Determined to at least scare the intruder away, she got the shotgun, which she had never fired, and shot at the animal. Going to investigate she could hardly believe her eyes to find the coyote dead. Going farther she found several dead hens in a pile supposedly to be taken to the coyote's den where she likely had young. Such were the experiences of our pioneer women.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaw had no family of their own but were very fond of children and young people. As a young child I considered it a treat to visit at their place and to spend a whole day there was something to remember. A niece of theirs, Rheba Coker, came from Ontario to live with them for a number of years and attended school at Alma Mater.

Mr. Shaw was one of the first trustees of the Alma Mater School District.

Later Mrs. Shaw bought a building on mainstreet in Irma and operated a hotel for a number of years. Mr. Shaw continued farming and about this time bought the north half of section 23-45-8 containing what was known as Swailes Lake. This used to be a favorite spot for C.G.I.T. hikes and weiner roasts as well as a good place to cut ice for ice-pits and ice houses. Mr. F.T. Thurston later purchased this land as well as the Schaefer quarter. This land is now owned by Ron Thurston. Ted Thurston bought the Tom Shaw homestead.

The Shaws sold the hotel to Mrs. L. Hager and they more or less retired, living for a number of years in a house on the property now owned by Mr. Stan Costall.

Always Mrs. Shaw, when in Irma, was interested and active in church groups and church activities.

After the death of Dr. Lowther's first wife, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw moved to Edmonton to live with him where Mrs. Shaw kept house for the men. Dr. Lowther, a dentist, and his first wife were long time and personal friends of the Shaws, often visiting them at Irma. After Mr. Shaw passed away, Mrs. Shaw and Dr. Lowther were married but in a few years she too passed on leaving Dr. Lowther a widower again.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaw had no family of their own but were loved and respected by all young people who knew them.

Excerpts from Mrs. Shaw's 1911 Diary.

Sunday, January 1, 1911

"Bright but cold - 32 below zero. We went to church to Mr. Elliott's this P.M. Mr. Wilson rode home with us."

Wednesday January 4, 1911

"Very windy and stormy. Tom drawing wood. He and Wilson went to Irma in P.M. I sent a small order to Eatons."

Thursday January 12, 1911

"Very cold - 48 below zero but very calm. Wrote home and to C.W. Kerr and H. Woodcock about turkeys."

Thursday February 16, 1911

"Bright but colder - 10 below. Mack McMillan here to-day to help Tom dig well deeper."

Tuesday March 7, 1911

"Mrs. Fischer came A.M. for sugar. Party at their place to-night. Mr. Coultman here. Tom ordered disk."

Friday May 20, 1911

"Cooler. Slept at home last night. At Mrs. Fischer's all

day. Will sit up again to-night. Angus left here at noon. Tom finished sowing oats on Wilson Place in P.M."

Thursday July 13, 1911

"Bright and warm. Tom putting out gopher poison. I baked bread for Fischers. Got mail from Fischers."

Friday September 22, 1911

"Bright but cold. This is Irma Fair Day. I took Mrs. Durand down and we went to Mrs. McCready's for dinner. Took \$91.50 in prizes."

Tuesday December 19, 1911

"Cloudy and cold. Threshers worked pretty steady all day."

Monday December 25, 1911

"Cold but warmer in P.M. We had our Christmas Dinner at Frank Johnstone's. Fischers and McMillans there also."

WELLINGTON SHAW

Wellington Shaw homesteaded N.W. 14-46-9 in 1907. He was Tom Shaw's dad. He proved up on his homestead and then went back East. Mr. C.L. Schaefer came out from Ontario and bought this land. He was married to Mrs. Tom Shaw's sister. After they left the Thurstons bought the land.

CLAUDE SHIPPY

by Nerine (Shippy) Hunter

My dad, Claude Shippy, came from Snohomish, Washington in 1911 to file on S.E. 2-48-10-W4th for a homestead. At first he lived in a tent until he built his sod house. He farmed with oxen - even rode them until he got horses.

As time went on he built a four room house with an upstairs which he later made into two rooms. In 1916 he married Goldie Brown, only daughter of James and Carrie Brown, who had come by covered wagon from Kansas.

Mom and Dad had five children: myself (Nerine), Fern, Vance, Velma and Vern. They worked very hard to build up their farm. We all milked cows, fed pigs and cleaned barns. I can remember I was only seven years old when I



Claude and Goldie Shippy.

would go out to look for cows. Fern, Vance and I helped Dad stook grain and put up hay. Velma helped Mom in the house and Vern, being younger, packed in the wood for the cookstove.

Mom always had a huge garden so she always did lots of canning. I can remember Mom packing water for washing clothes which she did on a wash-board. Her clothes were whiter then most machines make them today. She churned butter and baked our bread.

My dad had a number of hounds he used to hunt coyotes. He had a dog house on a sleigh and would lock the dogs in it until he saw a coyote and turn them loose. Dad also liked hunting moose and deer. Sometimes he'd be gone for a week usually coming home with our winter's meat.

In 1942 my folks moved to Marlboro. By then Vance had married Patsy Paish and took over the farm. Fern married Clarence Franklin and lived at Marlboro. I married Lyn Hunter and lived one and one-half miles from my old home. Velma and Vern went to Marlboro with my folks. Velma went out to work and later married Dick Piper and they now live at Jasper, Alberta. Vern continued his schooling in Marlboro.

In 1949 my folks moved to Edson, where they farmed and logged. Vern helped Dad as well as having a job in Edson. Mom, Dad and Vern moved to Creston, B.C. in 1962 where Vern looked after them. Eventually Vern married Dorothy Endicot and they faithfully looked after Mom and Dad until their passing. Dad passed away in 1968 and Mom in 1972 and are greatly missed by all of us.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Greenwood own the Claude Shippy farm today.



Jasper, Jennie, Claude, Goldia, Ross, Lola Shippy.

JASPER AND JENNIE SHIPPY

by Nerine Hunter (granddaughter)

Jasper and Jennie Shippy came from Snohomish, Washington in 1914. They homesteaded in the Willowview District on the N.E. 18-48-9. They had four children: Goldia, Claude, Ross and Lola who were all born in the States.

Here are some of the things I remember as a girl going to my grandparent's home:

We would go there for Easter and grandma would hide Easter eggs for us to find. A treat for Easter dinner was

hard boiled hen eggs.

In later years my grandpa was crippled with rheumatism and had to use a crutch and a cane. He used to ride on a stoneboat with one horse pulling it. This is how he used to go after the cows. The dog would go with him.

My grandma would have to work in the field. One day she was discing and the horses ran away. She got hurt and had to have a doctor. Another time she was helping to thresh and she climbed up the front of the rack and fell behind one of the horses. The horse kicked her in the face and the wagon wheel ran over her arm and broke it. Again she had to have Doctor Little from Viking attend her.

They usually had a hired man and my dad (Claude Shippy) helped them a great deal. After Grandpa passed away his son Ross took over the farm. Grandpa passed away in Mannville Hospital. Grandma had a stroke and was bed-ridden at home so my Aunt Goldia looked after her until her passing.

In later years Ross and his wife sold the farm to Sherman Prosser and then Ed Pocock bought it. Now the community pasture has it.

VANCE SHIPPY

Shippy's Truck Service: Owned and operated by Vance Shippy for over twenty years in the area. Vance was born in a small farm house northeast of Kinsella which qualifies him as a real hill billy. He farmed with his father until the middle forties when he took up a small mixed farm of his own that he ran in conjunction with his trucking. His trucking business catered mostly to the farmers and he found it very gratifying. In the spring of 1965 he hauled hay from the Barrhead area to help relieve the feed shortage. His last job in the summer of 1965, before turning the business over to his successor, was moving a tool shed from the C.N.R. property at Phillips to the farm of Bun (Arthur) Landers. Tuddy (Robert) Hollar assisted in this ordeal, and Vance tells what a beautiful summer day it was; but ended in a violent wind, thunder and rain storm just as they let the building down on Bun's property. He stated that he could tell many hair raising stories concerning his experiences but only wishes to leave a couple of words of advice to the younger folks starting out in business: *work hard, be prompt and above all be honest.*

Vance has one son Ron, living on the Carpenter Ranch across the tracks in Kinsella, one daughter living in Spruce Grove and two daughters living in Vernon, B.C. He is, at present, president of a Siding and Supply company in Vernon and has been kept quite busy.

ROY L. SHOTTS FAMILY

by Margaret Shotts (Clifford)

Roy L. Shotts was born in Keota, Iowa, U.S.A. in 1883. His ancestors were of Pennsylvania Dutch origin. He came to Alberta in 1905 and became a naturalized Canadian citizen in 1908. He first homesteaded north of Bruce, Alberta, but left gumbo country after a futile

attempt to make a living there. While at Bruce he met his future wife, Eliza M. Riddell, who traced her heritage to the United Empire Loyalists. The "Riddell Clan" came from Riddelstown in Ayrshire, Scotland. She was born at Galetta, Ontario in 1884, and came out west to keep house for her brother who homesteaded in the Bruce area at that time.

Mr. and Mrs. Shotts were married in Calgary, in February, 1917, lived at Bruce, and later moved to Irma in 1918. Their farmstead was S.E. 14-47-8-W4th in the Orbindale School district.

Three children were born to them. A son Gordon, who died in infancy, and two daughters, Margaret and Doris. Due to the distance from school both girls attended Avonglen School, except for one year when they went to Orbindale so Margaret could take grade ten.

I, Margaret, rode horseback across the school section to Avonglen School until Doris started. From then on we used a cart or buggy in summer and an open cutter in winter. A variety of old, but reliable horses provided transportation for us during our school years.

We guided our trusty steed with great decorum in the morning but on the homeward trip we detoured via trails, ditches, banks, sloughs and hills. These trips were a challenge to the driver, the mode of transportation and to the faithful horse. By sheer luck, we escaped any serious injuries and weren't ever hurt. Dad often praised us for our dexterity in driving through deep snowdrifts. The possibility of freezing to death enroute goaded us on to success, I know.



Mrs. Roy Shotts and Margaret, August 1921.

School days were always interesting. The world of books opened "Magic Doors" indeed. From my first school days I made up my mind to be a teacher when I grew up. I had no trouble remembering the year Avonglen No. 3975 was built, in 1920, the year I was born. My teachers were: Olive Rush (Sather), Orril Fischer (Darling), Annie Murray, Anne Kippen (Mut-tart), Dorothy Bates and Cynthia Ballentine. When we attended school at Orbindale No. 1723, built in 1910, Donald Gunn was the teacher. To me, Orbindale's weather-beaten sign was a tribute to its age, since it was the first school built in township 47.

Christmas concerts were always very exciting occasions, at Avonglen as participants and at Orbindale as

spectators, except for a reversal of roles when I was in grade ten. Whist drives and some dances were held at Avonglen but Orbindale was a popular spot for Bingo, card parties and dances. The lovely "never-to-be-forgotten" music provided by Coultman's orchestra was very special to us girls who absolutely "loved to dance!" Even yet I dislike hearing "Home, Sweet Home" because it meant the end of a happy social event in those days.

We liked riding horses, bike riding, picnics and jaunts to King's Park, and playing softball during the summer. In winter we enjoyed skating and watching hockey games at the rink in Mr. William Prior's pasture. We belonged to the Junior U.F.W.A. group with Mrs. Rhoda D. Allen as leader and our family attended United Church services held at Passchendale School, during the summer months.

Dad had one of the first radios in the district. He helped neighbors with legal matters and personal problems. There was even the odd person who couldn't read. Since he had always wanted to be a lawyer, advising people proved a rewarding challenge. He helped establish the North Irma Mutual Telephone Company and get rural mail delivery. Tuesday and Friday were mail days on Rural Route No. 2. We were avid readers and looked forward to mail days eagerly.

Mother was a faithful member of the U.F.W.A. and took a keen interest in school, community and church functions, as much as her health would permit. She named our farm "Hillswold" because of a hill one quarter mile southwest of our house on the school section. From there one could see many neighboring farms and across Buffalo Coulee northeast toward Eybens. At sunset the story of the "The Golden Windows" came true momentarily. From that hilltop I indulged in youthful daydreams about the future.

We had a very close friendship with Mr. and Mrs. Carl Riddle and their family of five children: Howard, Margaret, Kathleen, Claude and Florence. They lived two and one-half miles north of us. For seventeen years our two families spent Christmas and New Year's Day together. The first break in this tradition occurred on January 25th, 1941 when Howard Riddle died. I remember Dad saying what a difficult task it was to inform the Riddle family of Howard's untimely death. They, like some other families then, had no telephone.

When Dad and Carl Riddle visited they played checkers, stopping only for meals and chores. They were always so intent on their game they were unaware of what went on around them. Each would whistle or sing when victory was near, often being on different tunes. Margaret Riddle (McMann) remembers Dad singing "Red River Valley" (off key), while her dad was whistling "The Tennessee Waltz", at a crucial moment in the checker game. Loud guffaws indicated who won. Mr. Riddle often came on mail days as their mailbox was at our gate. One morning when I got up Mr. Riddle was just leaving for home. He and Dad had played checkers all night. Imagine that!

The mailman's trip was half over when he reached our place, seventeen miles from Irma. Besides mail, medicine, essential groceries, many other items were often delivered to families along his route. Two mailmen included Charlie Pyle and Jimmy Carter. Winter trips

were in a closed in cutter, sometimes a Bennett buggy in spring breakup and by car in summer. I remember the importance of one mail day in particular. Dad came home from town with the latest novel "Gone with the Wind". Mr. Ross McFarland Sr. had lent him the book for one week. The Shotts family all read it through and it was sent back to Mr. Ross McFarland Sr. via the mailman the next week as promised. I still remember how exciting the 1,037 pages of "Gone with the Wind" proved to be!

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Slipper were close neighbors. I spent many interesting hours visiting them through the years. Mr. Slipper studied Hebrew, Greek and Latin, and studied and translated the Bible, especially the Book of Revelation. We three played word games (similar to Scrabble) and cards. Mr. Slipper entertained me with riddles, puzzles and jokes. He took time to help the Shotts and Prothero girls learn to ride a bicycle, no easy task on rough roads in those days.

The Henry Prothero family were close neighbors too. Audrey and Jean Prothero and Doris and myself played together a lot during the summer. They attended the funeral of my cat "Tramp".



Roy Shotts, Doris and Margaret.

The Shotts family adored cats. We had three neutered cats for many years, "Tramp", who came as a stray cat the fall I was born, was my pet. When he was very old I accidentally stepped on him causing his death. I dug his grave at the edge of a nearby bluff. It took much effort to dig a hole for "Tramp's" shoe box coffin! The Prothero girls were invited to the sad affair. I conducted the funeral rites while Doris, Audrey and Jean Prothero were pall-bearers. He was buried with pomp and tears! Mother served lunch - tomato sandwiches, cookies and milk. How good that lunch tasted. Tramp's funeral proved to be exhausting! "Bobbins", our last farm cat, was rescued from Avonglen Schoolyard one fall. He was a pampered pet and retired to Vancouver with my parents.

Farming operations were done first with oxen, then with one, two, four, six and eight horses depending on the type of machinery used. Dad had a Fordson tractor used mainly to run a small threshing machine, and the fanning mill. A pump engine pumped very hard water from the deep bored well and was used to saw wood. The amount of food a threshing gang could eat amazed me,

especially potatoes for breakfast!

Dad cured pork for summer use putting it in sacks buried in the oat bin. He made large smelly crocks of sauerkraut each fall and was adept at making chocolate fudge and popping corn.

Mother canned chicken, beef and pork. She fried sausages and put them in jam tins, pouring melted lard over them, for use in summer. She made laundry soap with Gillett's lye and tallow. Cows were milked to provide milk and cream for butter, and chickens were raised for meat and eggs. We picked lots of saskatoons each summer. A good garden provided plenty of vegetables so we always had plenty to eat. We lived through the depression years without hardship. I remember Dad coming home from town one day and telling us we girls wouldn't be getting chocolate bars very often and at that time they cost five cents each or six for a quarter. What a shock that was to us! Nevertheless we still had some treats.

The summer of the caterpillar plague I recall Dad shovelling caterpillars off the north side of the house, dousing them with kerosene and burning them. Going to Vermilion Fair was an annual event and that year most trees were stripped bare. I saw my first circus at Vermilion too and was intrigued with the elephants. I knew then how the six men of Hindustan felt in "The Hindu Fable".

Mr. and Mrs. Shotts retired to Vancouver in 1943 after selling their farm to Mr. Frank Ford. Mrs. Shotts died in 1961 and Mr. Shotts in 1970. Both are buried in Calgary.

Margaret Shotts (Clifford) became a teacher, lives at Wainwright and teaches there. Doris Shotts (Hartley) became a nurse, living in Calgary until 1979. She and her husband now live in Victoria.

I enjoyed my childhood on the farm with its experiences and freedom, a heritage I am proud of.

In conclusion I will share a quip from the "Readers' Digest." When we think about the "Good Old Days" - we were not old, we were not good and we remember the nights! A priceless reminder to the older generation to which I now belong.

MRS. DORIS ENA SIMMONS

OBITUARY:

Mrs. Doris Ena Simmons passed away September 29th, 1943 after years of illness.

Mrs. Simmons was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Locke of Irma. She was born in Sherbrooke, Prince Edward Island, August 9th, 1907. Coming west with her parents at the age of twelve, she lived in Calgary until she came to Irma seventeen years ago to assume the duties of a teacher of Coal Springs school. On December 26th, 1927, she was married to Mr. Ernest Simmons of Irma, where she lived up to the time of her death.

S.G. SIMMONS

by Jack Simmons

Sidney George Simmons was born in London, England and left there in 1910 for Canada. Two years later he was followed by his wife and children, leaving just two weeks

after the Titanic went down.

They settled in Edmonton where he did carpenter work till 1915 when they moved to Irma and farmed in the Strawberry Plains area. Times were hard on the farm, especially for an English carpenter! To help keep the wolf from the door, Granddad was away most of the time doing carpenter work, while his sons, Sid and Ernie tried to run the farm.

In 1924 they moved into Irma where he and his two sons took over the livery barn. From this they gradually worked into the trucking business, which they ran as Irma Transfer, Simmons & Sons, until the eldest son, Sid, left in 1934, when it became Simmons & Son.

In 1944 they sold the trucks and bought the store in Kinsella from Ernie Williams and carried on as Simmons & Son - Everything for Farm and Home. It seems their motto was true as one could buy groceries, dry goods, hardware, lumber, machinery, insurance, and most anything one could wish.

Granddad continued to do some carpenter work as well as working behind the counter, but mostly it was for family or around the store. He also did some work in the Kinsella church basement and in his own home which is presently occupied by Fred Meyers.

Grandma passed away in 1953 and Granddad in 1957. Of their family of four only two are living - Sid in Delta, B.C. and Lily Simmermon of Irma.



On July 1, 1940, Ernie and Doris Simmons, Olive Jack and Jack Simmons.

SIMMONS AND SIMMERMON FAMILIES

by Lily Simmermon

On April 2, 1915, two families arrived to make their home in the Irma district. Mrs. T.C. Sanders and Mrs. S.G. Simmons, each with four children, came by train from Edmonton to join their husbands who had come on ahead. The men travelled with a boxcar load of "settler's effects" which had included beside meager household furnishings, a team of oxen, three horses, a wagon, a singleshare walking plow, a set of harrows, seventy-five chickens and a quantity of certified, registered seed potatoes. The latter was Mr. Simmons' idea for a crop. He had been told there would be a good market for seed potatoes. Apparently no one considered the distance from such a market.

The men met their families and all repaired to the hotel

for dinner, a first for the Simmons children who had never eaten in a public place before. I cannot speak for the Sanders family. When our appetites were satisfied we were all loaded into the wagon for the trip to "the farm". This was another first for the Simmons family. For generations we had lived in London, England and had never seen open spaces, being accustomed to row upon row of at least two-story brick houses, with concrete walks and cobblestone streets.

Since there were no houses on the land that the two men had filed on to homestead, they had rented an unused farmhouse which was known as "the old McMurray place" to differentiate from the Oscar McMurray place. Oscar was the son of the older people who were no longer in the country. Oscar's farm was approximately where the Allred place is now, and the house we were to occupy was a couple of miles south from there and a half mile east, on the road which now forms the north boundary line of the Wainwright military camp land. The house burned down many years ago and there is no sign of it ever having been there now. It was a large one-story frame building consisting of a large living room with four good sized bedrooms leading off from it and a large lean-to type kitchen at the back.

By the time we arrived it was beginning to get dusk and Mr. Sanders suggested that his oldest son and my two brothers should go and look for a well in the coulee since the water on the place was not fit for human consumption.

I think that I should introduce the families before I go any further. The Sanders family consisted of Ross, Lily (now Morse), Wilfred, now of Wainwright, and Edwin who makes his home in Bradner, British Columbia now. The Simmons family was made up of myself (Lily), my two brothers, Sid now of Delta, British Columbia, Ernie and our baby sister Violet (Sparrow) - the latter two now deceased.

The boys set off across the field and as I already mentioned, my family knew nothing of the country and hadn't a clue as to what a coulee was. I am not sure about Ross since the Sanders family had farmed at Moosomin, Saskatchewan. Everyone at home was busy helping to settle furniture for the night and just suddenly became aware of the fact that it was dark and the boys had not returned. The two men set out to find them but were unsuccessful. As they covered the area the boys should have travelled, neighbors joined them until there was quite a group of men, all calling and hallooing in the hope that the boys would hear and answer. Meanwhile, at home, the women were worried sick, my mother in particular, imagining wild animals roaming the plains and hillsides. The men decided to set a strawstack afire in hope that the boys would come to it and get warm, but Ross had heard of prairie fires and decided to stay well away from it. In the early hours of the morning the searchers decided to call off the hunt until daylight and returned to the house to wait. Shortly after dawn, one of us children looked out of the window and saw a team of horses drawing (we were told afterwards) a hayrack with the three boys and the dog standing at the front while Oscar McMurray drove them into the yard -- a triumphant end to a night of great adventure as far as they

were concerned. Questioned later, they said they had heard the calls and were afraid it might have been Indians, and when they saw the fire Ross told them about prairie fires and they decided to stay as far away as possible. They had not found the well and when they came up out of the coulee it would seem they had come up the far side having lost their sense of direction. They spent the night lying as close together as possible and the dog lay across them to keep them fairly dry -- yes it had rained in the night.

Prior to our arrival, there were only three children of school age in the district (Strawberry Plains) but with seven of us of school age it was arranged for a teacher to come and the school was opened. We had three teachers that year, Miss Olive Lay, Mr. Allison McDorman (whose name you hear read from the Honor Roll each Remembrance Day) and Miss Annie Hill. The latter two were related to the Hill family. At that time a student teacher was allowed a permit to teach for three months when part way through their training. This allowed them to earn some money to continue and also gave them practical training. The three who came to us were all good teachers. That was the year I took my grade eight and wrote my governmental entrance to high school exams in June and passed with no difficulty.

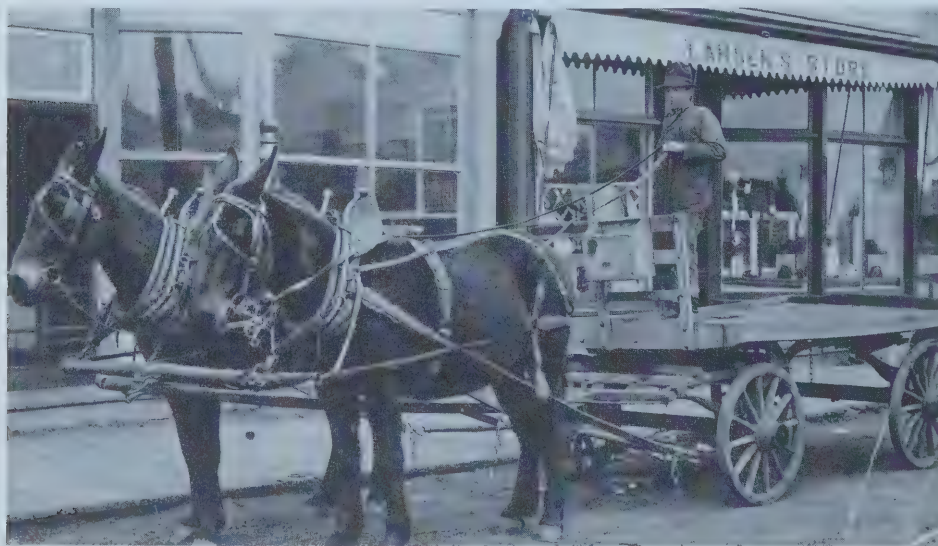
The homesteads Mr. Sanders and Mr. Simmons had filed on, had been viewed in the winter and when they were inspected in the spring it was found that the nice flat of arable land was indeed the Battle River, with the rest of the quarter rising from both sides of the river bed, so there was no hope of farming it and my dad abandoned it, which was the necessary procedure if one wanted an opportunity to file on another homestead. Instead he rented a few acres from Oscar McMurray and planted his potato crop which was to do so much for him. After school hours (and sometimes during) the boys weeded, hoed and hilled while Dad worked at his trade (carpentering) along with Mr. Sanders to try to bring in a little cash. Often payment consisted, at least in part, of a set of harness, a cow, a horse or feed for the animals. Meanwhile our mothers tried to feed us on eggs the hens

laid, rabbits the boys caught or prairie chickens. Our chickens did not last long as the coyotes came right into the yard to steal them even as we tried to drive them away. They came out of the coulee and were very brazen. Before we were able to build a pen of sorts there were only twenty-five of the seventy-five left.

One day when the men were away working at the Purvis place, several miles west of us, we looked out to see a vast black cloud rolling towards us. It was coming very fast and as it got closer we could smell the smoke -- the dreaded prairie fire -- and it was headed right for us. We had no way to fight it and didn't know how anyway. Then we saw through the smoke our fathers coming, driving like mad. They rushed to unhook the team from the wagon and hook them to the plow in order to plow a fireguard. However the fire was too big and too wide and it looked as though the farmstead would be burnt to the ground and we with it, when suddenly the flames and smoke parted and passed to the north and south of the house and yard, continuing on its way. It actually crossed the river and burned for a distance on the other side, so the narrow fireguard that our dads were able to plow would have had little effect.

The potatoes were harvested - not too good a crop but the quality of what we got was good. Dad was advised to store them and wait for spring when they would bring a better price. He decided to take the advice and a root cellar was dug and topped with logs and straw. The snowfall was very heavy that winter and so they were well protected and frequent inspections proved they were keeping well but a late winter thaw removed the snow and in spite of special care some of them froze. It was too cold to do anything with them at that time but as soon as weather permitted my brothers and I were assigned the task of sorting the frozen from the unfrozen and washing the good ones. I remember that after washing them we dried them on an old bedspring which had been left by previous tenants. We salvaged twenty-five bushels and sold them for three bushels for a dollar and that included the sacks they were in. So much for market gardening.

During this time, Mr. Sanders had been building a



Ernie Simmons with his mules and dray in 1924.

small house on his homestead down in the river valley in the district which became Lewisville. When the house was ready they moved into it and the Simmons family stayed on in the McMurray house. We missed our friends but visited back and forth and kept in touch. While they lived there they had for a time, boarding with them the teacher at Lewisville who was Daisy Johnson, a member of the very famous "Grads" basketball team.

In September of 1916 I went to live in Wainwright where I worked for my board in order to attend high school, there being none in Irma at that time. At about the same time my father rented the Burrell place which was west of and on the north side of the road which passes what is now the Ted Hill farm. Ted's grandparents were our very good neighbors. The family lived there until 1924 when my dad and brothers bought the livery stable and the dray and transfer business from William Bibby and moved to town. Meanwhile I had married and was living in Edmonton. My father had been working for the A. and G.W. Railway while my brothers were working for neighbors. When the deal was completed Dad asked my husband if he would consider coming to work for Simmons and Sons to help them get started since he had experience in that line as he had worked for his brother, Bud Simmermon when he had a similar business in Wainwright. Bob agreed and we came to live in Irma. Later on Bob became the Massey-Harris agent.



Irma Trucking in the 1930's.

In 1934 my older brother, Sid, left the firm and went to Edberg where he had the hardware business together with his wife. They were there until 1947 when they moved to Victoria, British Columbia where they also had a hardware business. Some years later they established still another hardware, this time in Abbotsford, British Columbia where they stayed until their retirement. After they retired Sid built two houses, one of which he sold. The other, a lovely home in Delta, British Columbia is where he now makes his home, his wife having died in 1978. They have two daughters, Margaret Walker of Vancouver and Helen Owens of Victoria.

Dad and Ernie continued the business in Irma. They changed the wagon and horses to trucks and became "Simmons and Son Trucking" and hauled thousands of bushels of grain for district farmers over the years. In 1944 they moved to Kinsella and bought a general store there which they operated until ill health forced Ernie to retire. My mother and father had passed on before that.



Simmons family in 1945: Lily, Dad, Mum, Violet, Sid and Ernie.

Ernie was first married to Doris Locke and to this union was born Jack who still resides at Kinsella where he and his wife, Donna, farm. Later Ernie married Olga Wangsness, widow of Pete Wangsness, former merchant of Kinsella. Ernie died at Kinsella and Olga later moved to Edmonton where she made her home until her death.

My sister Violet married Ken Sparrow of Saskatoon and they have seven children, six of whom still live in Saskatoon and one in Medicine Hat. Vi and Ken have both passed on, Vi in 1978 and Ken two years later.

My husband Bob died in 1969 and our four children are scattered. Bob our eldest is in Calgary; Vera (Moyer) is in Long Sault, Ontario; Don is in Ottawa and Doreen (Smith) is in Edmonton. I have fourteen grandchildren and one little great-grandson and expectations of a second great-grandchild. Bob and his wife Stella (Arnold) have four grown children, two sons and two daughters; Vera and her husband, Ralph, have four also, one daughter and three sons, all married but one. Don and his wife (nee Patricia Kerr of Edmonton) have three daughters, one of whom is married, and Doreen has three children, one married daughter, one grown-up son and a nine year old daughter. She lost her husband eight years ago.

I have now lived almost seventy years in Irma and it is that lifetime that I have tried to cover in these paragraphs. I hope you find it of interest.



1979: Bob, Doreen, Vera and Don, with their mother Lily in front.

GEORGE A. SISSON

by Wm. Kelm

George A. Sisson was born in Illinois. Graduated from Lehigh University in 1905 with a Degree in Civil Engineering.

After his first wife died, he moved to Alberta with his children, Alice and George. He spent two years doing contracting work in Southern Alberta. Due to a lack of construction work, he joined with some associates and formed the G.A. Sisson Co. and started a cattle and grain ranch in Sections 5 and 7 in the Alma Mater District of Irma. His son, George, died in 1920, during the influenza epidemic. Mrs. Kelm and her three sons came to live with him and his daughter and in 1923, he and Mrs. Kelm were married. In 1924, a son, Jim was born and, soon after, the family moved to Edmonton.

After two years, they moved back to the U.S. where he worked as an engineer for several firms and, eventually, worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Hawaii. He was on duty at Hickam Field on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

In 1948 he planned to retire but was stricken and died of a heart attack. Mrs. Sisson moved back to the mainland and lived in Long Beach, California; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Cincinnati, Ohio, near her son, Jim until her death in 1976.

Jim still lives in Cincinnati with his wife, Nicki. Alice married and is now Mrs. A.C. Bowser of Orlando, Florida.

IRA TAFT SKILES

Ira T. Skiles came to Irma in 1919 and in partnership with J.C. McFarland went into general store business. Good years and bad years hit merchants as well as farmers and other businessmen. During the good years everybody smiles, but in the bad years the store owners feel sorry for the customers, and alas, can't do much about it. Deep understanding is appreciated.

In 1924 Ella Marie Solberg came to Irma to work in the Bank of Montreal. Mr. Skiles was a bank customer - and the two met. Ira Skiles was then a widower with three sons, Denzil and Donald (twins), and Archie. The boys were on their own, the twins playing in the Irving Plumm orchestra in Winnipeg, and Archie had a job with the Edmonton Journal.

Ira and Ella - both sociable, friendly people, soon became friendly with each other. In 1927 we were married. We lived in Irma for some years, both working in the store. In 1933 Ira's health couldn't stand the stress of the bad times, and we took a long holiday, driving to Los Angeles. We stayed in a motel, and from there visited Ira's sister, met a nephew who was connected somewhat with the dog-racing, so away we went and really enjoyed that. Thank you, Nephew Cap. Haden. Drove through the city of Los Angeles to visit Percy Jones' folks in Long Beach, and of course across town to the baseball games on the fourth of July. We did enjoy this trip.

Ira decided he should leave the store and live on a farm. We bought a farm near Ryley, and lived there for



*Ira and Ella skiles,
1945, at their home
in Hammond, B.C.*

some years, spending most winters in Vancouver to be near the twins. Ira did not do the actual farming. He rented it to my brother Noah and foster brother Ted Solberg (Carl Gjerde). Motorized equipment was coming into use at about this time. We marvelled at Ted wheeling around the fields on the Allis Chalmers combine.

One year we took care of my brother Eli's sheep. Now that was different. Then Ira wanted a cow - so before we knew it we had cows to milk. You don't just rest on a farm. Ira loved his cows, and it really hurt when he had to sell them. Hunting ducks and geese was Ira's favorite sport. I would drive the car, so Ira and his hunting friend Mr. Guiltner would be ready to jump out and find a hiding place when ducks or geese came in sight or sound.

So much for farming. Ira retired again to live in B.C. Of course, he wanted something to do - so he thought a chicken ranch would be about the right amount of work. Well, my niece Merle Hillerud said she would help him. That was fine. We were there when the war war ended. Merle's boy friend returned from overseas; they were married and took over the chicken ranch.

Ira retired once more to live in Hammond, B.C. He died in 1951. In 1960 I moved back to Irma. My sister, Elma Tomlinson, is across the street. All's well!

LEN AND SONJA SKORI

Leonard Arthur Skori was born in Edmonton on January 6, 1943. His early years were spent on the farm attending school grades one to nine in Jarrow and finishing his high school in Irma. Len enjoyed playing softball for the team from Kinsella. In the summer of 1963 Len worked for Roger Graham at Rocky Mountain House and in 1964 for the C.N.R. in Northern Alberta.

On January 16, 1965 Len married Sonja Elizabeth Larson of Irma.

Sonja was born March 24, 1946, in Hardisty, the first daughter of Torlief and Nan Larson, who lived on the SW 2-45-10. Sonja attended school, grades one to three at Coal Springs, where Irene Fluevog was the teacher, and grades four to twelve in Irma, where she enjoyed playing basketball and softball.

Len and Sonja began married life in Edmonton, where

Len worked as a salesman for the U.F.A. Co-op. His starting wage was \$225.00 a month, so he spent most evenings working overtime, setting up machinery.

In 1968, Len began work as a salesman for Swift Canadian and the family moved to Dawson Creek, British Columbia. Len travelled from Grande Prairie to Fort Nelson. The country was beautiful and the people were friendly so the time spent here was enjoyed by all. In 1970, Len was promoted to supervisor for northern Alberta and British Columbia and the family moved back to Edmonton. Len now spent Monday to Friday away from home, flying to various centers to help the salesmen. Most weekends he spent on the farm, helping his dad.

October 1972, brought another move when Len and Sonja bought the family farm north of Jarrow. Here Len established a mixed farming operation.



Sonja and Len Skori and Family. Krista, Beret, Shawna and Darla.

Len and Sonja have four daughters:

Beret Anne took her grade one in Edmonton and finished her schooling in Irma. She enjoys singing, riding and all other farm sport activities. After graduating from high school Beret attended Bible School, L.F.R.C. at Caroline, Alberta. She will begin a nursing program in September at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton.

Shauna Lynn is presently in grade eleven at the Irma High School. She is involved in 4-H Beef, the Students' Union and various sport activities. She enjoys playing the piano.

Darla Elizabeth is in grade nine. She enjoys baby-sitting, reading, spectator sports and 4-H Beef.

Krista Dalene is in grade six and likes to read and work with animals.

Through the years Len has been involved in community activities, working in the Alberta Wheat Pool, Unifarm, 4-H Beef and the Fish and Game. Sonja keeps

busy with church activities and the Home and School.

Len and Sonja enjoy their "girls", and friends and relatives are always welcome in their home!

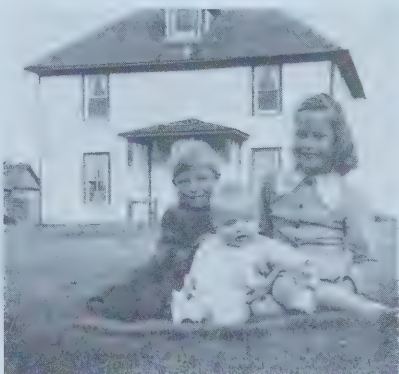
TED AND ELLEN SKORI

Ted Skori was born in October, 1908 in Amostdal, Telemark, Norway and came to Canada May 2, 1929. He arrived at the Jarrow station and was met by his cousin, Colin Skori. Ted lived with his Uncle Olaf and cousin Steela for a short time, working for various farmers in the Loughheed-Kinsella district. During the winter months he worked in the logging camps for ten to fifteen dollars a month.

In 1934 he moved to Edmonton and was employed by Swift Canadian working ten hours a day, six days a week for thirty cents an hour.

Ellen Arrowsmith was born on June 19, 1913, to Arthur and Margaret Arrowsmith of Coal Creek (near Fernie), British Columbia. Here she completed her school education. In 1934 she moved to Edmonton, where she worked until her marriage to Ted on August 30, 1935.

Ted and Ellen built a new home in the Highland district in Edmonton before moving to the George Matthew farm in the Jarrow district in the fall of 1940. Jack Simmons has that farm now. In 1943 Ted bought the Moore farm and they moved there in March.



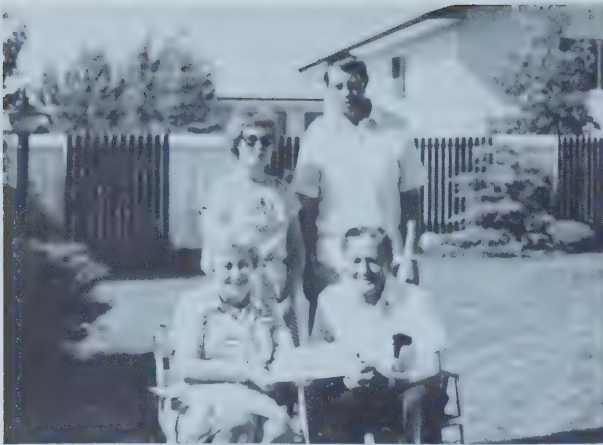
Len, Ken, and Norine Skori.

Ted farmed for several years with horses and then bought a used Wallis tractor (steel wheels) and a plow. This he used to break the land until in later years he hired the Arkinstalls to brush and Clarence Kjorlien to break the land.

Ted used the mower to cut hay and grain was cut with a binder and threshed until 1952 when he bought a Massey Combine from Keith Coffin in Irma. While Ted was busy in the fields, Ellen milked cows, fed pigs, raised chickens and looked after a large garden. This was quite an accomplishment for a city girl. Ted also did custom combining for some of the neighbors.

Ted and Ellen had three children: Margaret Norine, born November 16, 1937; Leonard Arthur, born January 6, 1943; Kenneth Dale born February 27, 1948 who passed away on November 14, 1950.

Norine attended school in Jarrow and Irma, finishing



Ted, Ellen, Leonard and Noreen Skori on Ellen's sixty-fifth birthday.

her high school at Camrose Lutheran College. Norine worked at Swift Canadian in Edmonton. On June 11, 1960 she married John Fedrick and their daughter Debra Elaine was born March 26, 1965. Norine is currently employed by the Bank of Montreal in Edmonton.

Len began school in Jarrow and completed his high school in Irma. In January of 1965 Len married Sonja Larson and they have four daughters: Beret, Shauna, Darla and Krista. They are now farming in the Jarrow district.

Ted and Ellen continued to farm until their retirement in 1972. They are presently living in Camrose.

MR. AND MRS. THOMAS SLIPPER

by Margaret (Shotts) Clifford - July, 1983

Thomas Slipper was born in England in 1884. As a young lad he quit school, having the equivalent of a grade seven education. He ran away from home and went to sea. During his years on the boats he led a very rough life. He worked along the eastern sea coast of the United States in the New York area before coming to Irma in the early 1900's. He homesteaded N.E. 10-47-8 in the Avonglen school district.

One winter he ran out of reading material, picked up the Bible and read it through. As a result he became an avid Bible student. Tom studied Latin, Hebrew and Greek, as well as mathematics, science and astronomy to help him in his Bible studies. Tom translated the book of Revelation, writing "A Study in Revelation" which was published later.

Tom married Sarah Ellen (Nellie) Thomson, a nurse from the Passchendale school district in 1926. Jim Pollard, aged four, was ring bearer and Doris Anderson (Inkin), aged five, was flower girl. These two children were Nellie's nephew and niece. For many years he drove a horse and buggy at a fast pace. He and Nellie both had bicycles which they often rode to Irma to shop, and to the Battle River at Fabyan, so Tom could go swimming. Having no bathing suit he swam in his underwear. Tom went back to England in 1937 to see his mother.

Living fifteen miles from Irma he would make two

trips to town in one day with a wagon load of grain, using one team for the morning trip and another team for the afternoon trip. He drove his horses hard and fast wherever he went. Tom had made a sign for the door which read "Dew Drop Inn", a conversation piece for folks who dropped in.

Nellie Slipper was a clever seamstress, and knit and crotched beautiful items. Both Mr. and Mrs. Slipper enjoyed having young visitors. Margaret and Doris Shotts, Audrey and Jean Prothero, Doris Anderson and Shirley Thomson spent many happy hours with them. Tom entertained us with jokes, riddles, puzzles and games and helped us all learn to ride a bicycle. Tom was fascinated with his first car, a second hand Chevrolet. He studied the manual in detail and found car maintenance an interesting challenge.

In the spring of 1941 they rented their farm to Herbert Lewis. Mr. and Mrs. Slipper left their farm home in June, 1941, destination B.C. They took with them only their personal possessions that would go into their car. No one knew about their plans to leave until they had gone. They settled at Departure Bay, near Nanaimo, B.C. Their home overlooked the Pacific ocean - a dream come true. Now Tom could swim whenever he wanted to.

Nellie Slipper died in 1946 and Tom in 1966. Both are buried at Departure Bay.

Tom Slipper always wore a little black skull cap on his bald head when studying. In conversing with friends he would close his eyes tightly and regale his listeners with interesting tales of his experiences. He had a delightful sense of humor which he displayed to children of all ages. The Shotts and Prothero families were good friends of Mr. and Mrs. Slipper. Tom Slipper is remembered as being a very clever, but quite eccentric man. At Parksville he continued his Bible studies until his health and vision failed. Without a doubt, Tom made an impression on Avonglen-Orbindale history.

REMINISCENCES

by Bill Patterson

As I remember, Tom Slipper farmed northeast of us, about seventeen miles from town. I first remember him as Dad, Uncle Colin and I drove to town in our Model T. We were just west of Alma Mater School following the prairie trail towards Aub Fischer's, when we drove around a clump of trees and met him. He was driving four horses abreast on a wagon and trailed another behind. The horses, frightened by the car, turned and ran. Tom lost his reins, and as the team raced away he hung onto the sides of the box as the wagon bounced over the prairie. Suddenly one horse fell and everything piled up. When we got there we found Tom thrown free and unhurt, and all the horses but one gone. This one was lying with the wagon box upside down on her head, and she was securely pinned down. The men released her and Dad asked "Why didn't you jump, Tom?", he replied that the last time he did, he had to walk several miles to find his team, so thought this time to ride it out.

Dad, Colin and the Elliott brothers had together bought a Case threshing outfit with gas tractor to run it in 1921. Next year, custom threshing for Tom, they were

just getting up and Tom pushed a wooden block in front of the tractor wheel as the brakes wouldn't keep the belt tight. His foot was caught between the rib on the wheel and the block. Dad backed the tractor up, Tom's foot was free, so again he pushed the block tight with his boot. Then as they began to thresh, he sat down and pulled off his shoe to see if his foot was o.k. Seeing nothing unusual, he then pulled his sock off and his big toe fell out. The wheel had cut it right off and it hardly bled at all.

Every fall after threshing he used to haul his grain to town by wagon. There was usually no snow, but the ground would be frozen hard and the wagon could be heard for miles. Tom had a bunch of cayuse horses, mostly blacks, small but tough and wild. He drove his four horse hitch like a stage-coach driver, a trot or lope if loaded and a flat out run empty. It would be November and you could hear his wagon coming just as daylight was breaking. It was down hill in front of our place and he always went by on the run. At eleven in the morning, you could set your watch by him, he would go by on the dead run going home. Two o'clock he was going in again, still running. Five-thirty you could hear him coming home from his second trip. Early in the fall if his teams were wild, he made both trips with one team, an incredible sixty-eight miles - then next day a fresh team. Soon he could alternate each day as they settled down to one trip each.



Alex and Helen Smallwood, Velma and Dorothy, 1959.

ALEX AND HELEN SMALLWOOD

by Helen J. Smallwood

Alex was born in Harcourt, New Brunswick in 1909. He came west with his parents in the spring of 1910. They resided south of Irma and he received his education here. He farmed with his father until Bob passed away in 1947. Alex still continued to farm until his retirement in 1978-79.

In the spring of 1954 he and I (Helen Elliott, nee Platt) were married. I was born at Innisfree in 1913. There I received my education and later took a business course at McTavish Business College in Edmonton. In 1941 I married Edwin Elliott who passed away in the spring of

1951. In 1949 one daughter, Velma was born. She received her schooling in Irma and continued her education by taking a three year course at the Alberta Hospital in Edmonton. In 1970 she married Richard Dubchak and has one son Jason. She graduated from the Alberta Hospital and is now working in Red Deer in the Central Alberta Group Psychotherapy Centre as a Psychotherapist.

In 1956 Alex and I had a daughter, Dorothy. She too received her education in Irma and later attended a Business College in Calgary. She is now employed with the Calgary City Police.

In 1957 Alex became a councillor for the M.D. of Wainwright; a position he held for twenty-four years. He was a community minded man. He held several positions - chairman of the Wainwright Hospital Board, Recreation, church, school, Secretary-Treasurer of the Gratton R.E.A. He held this position from 1953 until his passing in 1982.

In the fall of 1978 we moved into the Village of Irma. He passed away in October, 1982. Mervin, Paralee and Darryl MacKay now reside on our farm south of Irma.

CLIFF SMALLWOOD

by Peggy Smallwood

Cliff was born on the family farm, just across the road from where Donald McKay now lives, on July 28th, 1915. He nearly lost his life in the influenza epidemic in 1918. In 1923 they moved to the Purvis farm, now owned by Martin Creasy. He attended school in Irma all his life because Maude and Alex were soon ready for high school so he went with them.

Cliff enjoyed all outdoor activities, hunting, riding, baseball and hockey. Later in life he took up golfing and fishing. He always wanted a bike but never had one - I guess that's why his girls had bikes when they were six and seven years.

When Alex had finished high school he'd been offered a job in the bank, but this wasn't for him - farming was his interest. When Cliff finished high school he'd have loved a job in the bank but this was the "early thirties" and jobs were already very difficult to get. Cliff did go to McTavish Business College in Edmonton, but still no job available. He helped with farming and did make ice on the skating rink for a year or two.

In the fall of 1935, I, Marget Kjos (Peggy) came to teach at the Glenholm school. I met Cliff at Jackman's card party in October. Cliff had offered to act as Santa Claus at my school concert. However, what he didn't know was that he'd be my Santa Claus for the rest of his life.

Cliff and I were married in 1937. We had four children: Lorraine, Marian, Carole and Bob.

In 1939 with the help of his aunt Mildred Tripp, we bought the Mitchell farm. We purchased most of our household goods and machinery at auction sales around the country. Cliff loved this type of buying. I enjoyed going occasionally and visiting, I never enjoyed the bidding.

Our first winter in Strawberry Plains the roads were not open to cars all winter like they are today. There'd be

several months we'd be quite confined to home. Every Saturday Cliff would do his chores, hitch up the horses and drive to town. He'd do business, visit, get groceries and get back to do chores again. It was his one big outing of the week and he really enjoyed the visiting.

My big outing at these times used to come every two weeks. The neighbor ladies all met together to make a quilt for the Red Cross. These were sent overseas where they were so badly needed during the war.

One night I particularly remember, the show "How Green is my Valley" was showing in Irma. It was a beautiful winter day so Cliff put a lot of hay in the bob sleigh, quilts and blankets and the girls and I cuddled in. We drove past Smallwoods; picked up Alex, Dora May and George at Reeds and drove a distance of six or seven miles to Irma. We had a lovely evening, a wonderful show and a real outing after being in the house for so long.

We didn't go too often to the shows while at Strawberry Plains, but after moving closer to Irma we went nearly every Friday night. We really missed the theatre when it burned down. However, we did do a lot more visiting with neighbors than we do today. We'd often go to ball games or picnics either at Battle River or the various lakes. Of course for years Hardisty Stampede was a favorite spot.

In 1941 it was very dry and crops were nearly nil. Cliff and family moved to Edmonton where Cliff worked at MacDonald's Consolidated all winter. In the spring he purchased a "Farmall A" tractor. His dad wasn't so sure about that venture because interest can really pile up. At that time interest was about two or three percent. How different from today! However, we were now living in the forties and depression years were behind us. It was perhaps the smartest move we could have made.

The year 1943 was rather an eventful year in our lives. Carole was born in 1943, that same year Cliff joined Masonic Lodge and the curling rink opened. Curling swept the town and country like a prairie fire.



Christmas in 1952 at the Smallwood's: Peggy, Marian, Lorraine, Cliff, Bob and Carole.

Cliff started curling and he was so keen about the game he'd come home and curl it all over again with salt and pepper shakers and an imaginary house. I knew what an in-turn was, what an out-turn was. I knew how a slow rock would curl and what a fast rock would do long before I knew what the house or rock looked like. However, I really felt like a curling widow even if Cliff did make me feel like part of it. I felt much better after seeing my first game which was the Spring bonspiel. The game all of a sudden took shape.

In 1947 we sold our farm and purchased Ole Halvorson's farm one mile west of Irma. This led to quite a change for us. I joined U.C.W. at Cliff's mother's request and W.I. at Myrtle Anquist's invitation. Later in 1959 I became a charter member of Martha Chapter O.E.S. These organizations have been part of my life ever since.

I got the curling bug too, so the girls and Bob all grew up in the curling rink. Curling in those days got first priority. You never thought of going anywhere else if you were scheduled to curl. There was a real close knit feeling among all of us. Serving pies, coffee and hamburgers was a pleasure because we all enjoyed the atmosphere and being part of it.

Our house west of town was small, so shortly after moving we bought a propane stove. How wonderful! A turn of a button and your heat was waiting for you, or your oven was turned to 350 degrees and remained there. No more waiting for the wood to burn or put your baking in at 350 degrees only to have it go to 400 degrees in short order. No wonder why I didn't dare bake a Christmas cake for years after we were married.

We also installed an oil burner that winter. How nice to have a warm house in the morning too. I remember more than once while in Strawberry Plains, ice would be frozen on the wash basin in the kitchen. It is difficult for us to realize how many conveniences we take for granted.

Cliff also had one chore less. Every winter he'd have to get up a huge pile of wood to see us through the year. Now the turn of a button brought the same results, only better.

About 1950 Calgary power put power lines across our farm so we got the power in. That in turn gave us a great many more conveniences. Electric lights, refrigerator, toaster and mix master were the first I remember. I loved every one of them.

In 1952 Bob was born. Our house was so small it meant move or build.

In 1953 we moved to the Les Robertson farm northeast of Irma. We were again without power from April until August. In August the Rural Electrification program was just completed so nearly all farmers got power.

In the early 1960's we had a gas line cross the farm so we put in the natural gas, another pleasure.

This farm was less for a cattle farm than the other one so we made a switch from the threshing machine to the combine - another labor saver. No more stookers, or threshers to cook for. We really used to enjoy the threshing days, and taking lunches out. There was always something unique about it. However fall was always such a busy time anyway with canning and pickling, that it really lightened the load to have only two men to feed.

We did start taking dinners and suppers out to them so they could work longer hours, but even that is less time consuming.

In 1956 Cliff went to the Progressive Conservative Leadership Convention when John Diefenbaker was put in as P.C. leader. This led to Cliff's running as Progressive Conservative candidate in the 1957 election. He lost to Social Credit at that time but ran again in 1958 election to become the Member of Parliament for Battle River Camrose Constituency. Cliff stayed in as M.P. for ten years, resigning in 1968.

These ten years are a bit difficult to assess. They were ten years of experience, learning, interesting, and they definitely had their high points. On the other hand they were also more difficult in many ways. Cliff was away from home from six to eight months of the year. He was also going a great deal when he was home. Bob was still small, so it was difficult to go with him, and the pressures of his job were certainly much stronger. Cliff also found it a bit difficult to re-adjust to the farm after resigning.

Cliff and I had a family of four: Lorraine went to University and got her teaching certificate. Between her third and fourth year she and another girl taught the Indians for the summer months at Trout Rock, thirty miles out of Yellowknife. This was an interesting experience. After graduating she took a position in Calgary. She married William Patrick of Calgary, also a teacher. They have two boys, Daryl and Gerald. The boys love their sports, baseball, hockey, golf, swimming, so this keeps mother and father busy too.

Marian worked in the bank after getting her business course. She married Robert Fischer and raised a family of five. Her write-up is elsewhere in this book.

Carole also attended University. She got her science degree, followed by her law degree. She articleed and worked in Calgary. She married Keith Conrad, also a lawyer. They have two children, Derren and Cara. The same story holds true for them as most homes. It keeps one person busy taking the children to their baseball, hockey, swimming and cubs. Cara keeps up with gymnastics, dancing, brownies and music.

Bob attended Camrose College, a year University, and then came back to farm. He married Donna Daechsel. She was raised in New Guinea, although her folks have moved to Wisconsin now. They have one son, Craig, who is three years old. He had no brother or sister, but a dog and cat who are certainly part of the family.

In 1978 Cliff and I retired to Irma. We had done a bit of travelling but had hoped to do a lot more. However, it wasn't to be. Cliff died of heart problems in 1979. Our life together is over but there is only one assessment to make. Thank God we had forty-two wonderful years to remember and a family to carry on after us.

ROBERT AND DONNA SMALLWOOD

Robert Donald Smallwood had three sisters considerably older so he was well supplied with nursemaids. As a boy, Bob liked sports, calf club and gymkhana. He had a pinto pony "Trixie" that he enjoyed riding the barrels in gymkhana. He attended university for a year



Bob and Donna Smallwood.

and then for a couple of years worked on the farm in the summer and in the north near Inuvik in the winter. He now farms.

He married a teacher, Donna Daechsel, who was raised in New Guinea where her dad was administrator of a Lutheran Mission. She attended high school in Australia. Her parents have since moved to Wisconsin. Bob and Donna are active in Kinsmen and Kinettes. They have one son, Craig Stephen, and one daughter Chelsea Marie.

ROBERT DUNBAR SMALLWOOD FAMILY

by Maude Mills

Robert Dunbar Smallwood, relative of Joey Smallwood, former premier of Newfoundland, was born and educated in New Brunswick. One of his teachers being a well-known Edmonton lawyer - H.H. Parlee. Robert grew up in a strict Presbyterian home. He could recite many passages from the Bible and in our home Sundays were rest days and for visiting with friends. The week's work was to be finished Saturday.

Bob, as he was known to his friends, started railroading at an early age out of Moncton. He married Margaret Robinson McKay in 1907 and lived in an apartment in Moncton where their first son, Alex, was born.



Robert Smallwood

When Alex was ten months old the family moved to Irma, and lived with Margaret's father, Alexander McKay and family, on the farm now owned by Donald McKay. Three months after their arrival a daughter, Maude, was born in the old McKay house with Irma's first doctor - Murray McGregor, in attendance. Bob carried on with railroading out of Edmonton for a couple of years until he decided to farm and bought a quarter section from Stanley Grant. It had a very small house and a sod barn; the land was broken and ready for planting. There was no well and water had to be brought up the hill in barrels on a stoneboat from McKays. In 1915 another son, Clifford, was born in the little farmhouse and again Dr. McGregor was there.



Mrs. Margaret Smallwood (R.D.)

Things went well and a new barn was built by William McKay, first cousin of Margaret's, from Wainwright, and a well drilled near the house producing an excellent supply of good water. Also the house was enlarged and now Alex and I could give up our bed of straw for something better.

Then the 1918 flu hit. Alex was number one in our house. Dr. McGregor came to see him and ordered many bottles of medicine, all kept on a chair by his bed. One day I was admiring the bottles and my dad said I could have medicine from the bottle I liked best - which happened to be castor oil. He kept his word and I got a good spoonful - I think he took some also because he and I were the only ones not to get the bug. Mother finally got sick and when Dr. McGregor came I handed him a note - asking him to bring mother a baby the next time he came. The last time I saw Dr. McGregor he still had the note. Clifford was last and sickest of all. The Doctor said there was nothing more he could do and he would not be back. Mother and Dad sat with him night and day heating brown paper soaked in goose grease and camphorated oil and applying it to his chest. So with this and their prayers Clifford was spared. Cliff's wife said their home had to have goose grease in it at all times and more than once applied the remedy to the children.

In 1920 grandfather died and we moved to the McKay house where we lived for several years. During our first winter there Alex developed an acute appendicitis. The

fast train was stopped and Alex was placed in the baggage car on a cot with his parents and taken to Edmonton for emergency surgery. It was a great worry for the family, but ended well.

A new school was built in Irma and the pupils carrying lunches had to eat in the cloakroom. Dad did not approve of this and made his objections known to the board. The board ruled that the pupils could eat in the classroom but the doors must be locked, the only exit being the window with a seven foot jump to the ground. This infuriated Dad and he phoned the Superintendent. The next day at noon the school inspector was under the window when the students came popping out the window. This was the beginning of Dad's interest in community and public affairs. He served on the school board and on the municipal council as a member and as reeve for twenty years. In 1935 he ran as a Conservative candidate for Alberta Legislature, being defeated by Social Credit.



Alex and Cliff Smallwood with a 1926 Chev.

Our next move was back to our original little home. Soon we needed more land and we moved three miles farther south where Creasys now live. We had a larger house and more land. This is the home where we spent our teen years and the beginning of the depression. The crops were poor, caterpillars and grasshoppers invaded and the soil blew away.

The winters were long and cold, but time passed quickly because of great friends and neighbors. Every Saturday evening all the neighbors gathered at the different homes where Mr. Alf Hagen played the accordion while the young people danced. The older ones visited and the younger ones were put to bed. At midnight the ladies served delicious lunches and the parties broke up about two in the morning.

Sunday mornings there was church service in the Strawberry Plains school and the minister from Irma United Church gave the sermon, driving there with horse and buggy. In spite of the depression and hard times, we had a happy childhood.

*I wish that every child could know the rural charm
Which casts its spell on all who spend their childhood on
a farm.*

*I wish that kids from city streets could play in stacks of
hay*

*And feed the cows and chickens and also find their way
To brooks and streams that trickle through the splendor*

*of the woods,
And know that Mother Nature owns far more than
worldly goods.*

As I think back, the following poem is in memory of my Mother:

*Back to a little prairie farm,
Where three children scrapped and played
Where Mother toiled to give us bread
And for our welfare daily prayed.*

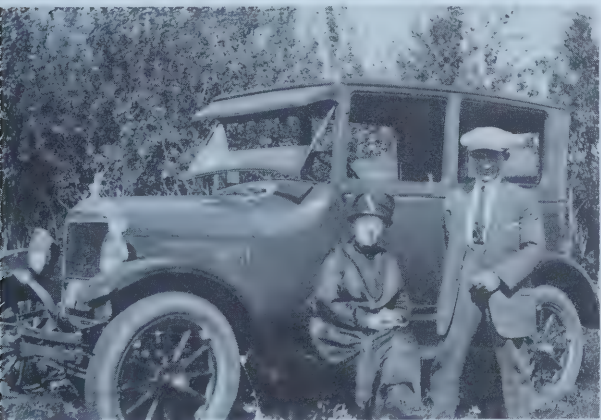
*Her life was hard, she never knew
The luxuries that gold could buy
She patched and darned and made things do
With ear attuned to a child's cry.*

*She taught us all the simple things
A picnic down beside the trees
A walk along the coulee bank-
We asked no greater treat than these.*

*She taught us lore from near and far,
She showed us the beauty in a leaf
We thrilled to hear a sparrow sing
And felt the wonder of a star.*

Mother took an active interest in church and community activities. She was known for her neighborliness and hospitality, always having a great sense of humor and a cheerful spirit.

Mother and Dad bought the McDonald farm in 1941 where they lived until their deaths - Dad in May, 1947 and Mother in July, 1954.



Mrs. Smart and Andrew.

DELMAR AND LOUISE SMITH

Delmar (Del) Smith was one of the twin sons born in 1909 to Dixie and Lillian Smith of Calmar, Alberta. They were a family of five who lost their mother when the children were young. Del, together with twin Herbert (Tobe) came to Irma to live with Charlie and Martha Holt. Holts and Smiths had become acquainted through mutual friends and relations. Mrs. Holt wanted twin boys

so took the responsibility of raising these two young whipper snappers.

Del attended school at both Lynx and Ross schools. Mabel Holt was his first teacher out here.

He left the Holt ranch in 1930 to work in the city at a riding academy, breaking horses for army recruits. About a year later he went back to the ranch and worked there until 1936. This was the time of the Yellowknife gold rush. Del, with gold dust in his eyes, headed for the north. When he got as far as Fort Smith he was told he would starve to death at Yellowknife so he stayed where he was for three or four months cutting wood and building a road for the Hudson Bay Co. A whole hill and graveyard had slid into the river. This had to be built up so the boats could be loaded.

From here he went to the Eldorado Gold Mine (radium was found here later). You were only allowed to remain there for about a year because of the confinement on an island with no way to get off except by boat or plane.

In 1941 Del came back to Irma with the intention of joining the army, but couldn't enlist because of diabetes.



Del and Louise Smith.

Louise was one of the four children of Ray and Bessie Mark. She was born at Hugo, Colorado, April 14th, 1922. She and her older brother Ralph came to Canada in 1926 to live with their mother and stepfather, Matthew Ambler. Louise and Ralph attended school at Education Point. They were the janitors for two or three years, earning the big sum of five dollars a month.

The year Louise was in Grade VIII, near Christmas, she became ill with what they thought was measles. After the holiday she went back to school and suffered a relapse. They had given up hope for her but thanks to Dr. Greenberg, who called every day for a week, Louise responded and recovered. She lost considerable school time so did not go back to finish her year. She left home and went housekeeping in the city for awhile before becoming acquainted with Del Smith.

In the year 1942 Del and Louise were married. They lived for many years on the N.W. 14-47-9 north of Irma. Four children were born of this union, Clark in 1943, Bonnie in 1951, Nadine in 1960 and Cindy in 1962. Nadine died at birth.

When Clark was four, Del and Louise, together with brother Ralph and his family, motored to Spokane to become re-united with Louise's father Ray Mark. This was an unforgettable occasion which brought tears of joy to all concerned.

Del and Louise spent most of their farming days with hours of hard work milking cows, feeding pigs and raising chickens. The children went to school at Education Point and to Albert when the buses started. Later they were bussed to Irma.



Cindy, Bonnie and Clark Smith.

Clark married Marilyn Veer in 1961 and three children were born of this union. A son Mark was born of a later marriage. Clark now lives in Sherwood Park and has a trucking business.

Bonnie married Dave Randal in 1968. They were blessed with one daughter Louise. Bonnie was divorced and later married John Smith. She and family now live at Redwater.

Cindy married Jerry Nider in 1983. They with baby daughter Alysia, live in Edmonton.

Del and Louise moved off the farm into Irma in 1974. For some time they both worked in the Irma hotel, but have now retired.

*Thank God for sleep!
And, when you cannot sleep,
Still thank Him that you live
To lie awake.*

— John Oxenham

GEORGE SMITH FAMILY

by Gladys Holt

George Smith and family, his wife Lauretta, and children Gladys, Ella, Orville, Ira and Kenneth came to the Irma-Jarrow area in early 1919. They farmed and ranched for four years north of Irma, on S.W. 24-47-10. The first year was a hard one and many suffered in the winter of 1919 and '20. They were lacking feed, as many never got harvesting done and consequently many cows and horses died during this winter. Dad (George) loved to hunt coyotes with his hounds and he loved



Mrs. George Smith with her fowl in 1920 at the farm presently owned by H. McElroy.

horses, and had many fine animals. We continued farming until 1923, when Dad (George Smith) got wanderlust and we moved to San Jose, California.

Father died in 1941 and Mother (Lauretta) in 1976. My older brother, Guy passed away in 1978. I, Gladys came back to Irma in 1927 when I married Joe Mac Holt and now live in Viking. Joe Mac passed away in 1975.

Ella resides in Killarney, Manitoba and is a widow. Orville has retired and he and his wife, Betty, live just east of Kinsella. Ira and Kenneth and their families live in Ontario. Betty passed away in 1984.



Dick Rohrer, Orville and Gladys, Joe Mac. Front: Ira and Ken Smith.

H.G. (TOBE) SMITH

Tobe (H.G.) Smith and his twin brother Delmar came from Calmar, Alberta to live at the Holt Ranch, northwest of Irma, in the fall of 1923, with Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Holt and their two sons Joe Mac and Gordon. They were the sons of Dixie and Lillian Smith. Their mother had passed away and their father was left with five children to raise.

Mr. Smith had a Model T car, so a friend of the Holts (Pat Kaufman) asked Mr. Smith to take him down to see them. When they came home and he told his family about the horses etc., and also that Mrs. Holt had said she would like to have the twins come to live with them, the boys thought it would be great to be able to live out there.

They were put on a train in Edmonton and arrived in Jarrow late at night. They phoned the Holts and they came in for them and they were on their way to their new experiences on the Ranch.

They got further public school education at Lynx and Ross schools. Tobe later took his high school in Irma, riding horseback every day.

He worked on the Ranch and in 1939 bought the quarter originally owned by Earl Moore and later added several more quarters of land to this.

In 1939 Tobe married Margaret Whidden and they have two boys; Bert and Todd, and one daughter, Faye. They took their public school at Batt and later went to high school in Irma.



Tobe and Margaret Smith's fortieth anniversary, 1979. Margaret, Bert, Tobe, Todd and Faye. Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Whidden.

Bert married Jean Darling and they have a family of three: two girls, Lynn and Dianne, and one boy, Douglas. They have all been a great help on the farm.

Lynn, the eldest daughter, is married to Bradley McKee and they have two children, Jason and Jody. They are living on a farm at Irma.

After graduation from high school, Dianne took a year of nurses training at U. of A. At present she is working in Morgan's Department Store at Wainwright and Doug is in high school in Irma.

Bert, Jean and their family are all very active in community affairs; 4-H, hockey, curling, Agricultural Society, Church, etc. Bert is a member of B.P.O.E. and Jean of the O.O.R.P. in Kinsella.

Todd married Marion Sauers and they have two boys; Trent and Trevor. They are active in hockey and softball. They live in Calgary where Todd has been employed by Cigas for a number of years. The boys really enjoy coming to the farm for summer holidays.

Faye married Gordon Pyle. They have three children, Annette, married to Randy Newton, Michele and Kristen at home.

At present they are living at Chilliwack, B.C. They have moved around quite a bit as Gordon is with the Canadian Forces. They spent some time in Germany, Gimli, Vancouver, Gibbons and Petawawa to name some.

Tobe enjoys hockey and spends a great deal of time watching on T.V. and going to see his favorites - the Oilers. He also enjoys other sports and is a member of B.P.O.E.

Margaret enjoys curling and spends much time doing handicrafts; quilting, knitting etc. She also enjoys gardening and is a member of the O.O.R.P.

Both belong to the United Church in Irma.

JEAN (DARLING) SMITH

I was born in Vermilion, Alberta on October 1, 1941, the fourth child and third daughter of Eugene (better known as Jake) and Orril Darling who were then farming southwest of Vermilion. My brother Allan was the oldest then came Marian (who was known to me only as "sister Bill" for a long time) and Doris.

Later the family lived in Irma for a while before moving to Saskatchewan. In Saskatchewan we first moved to Crooked River and then to Prairie River where Dad worked in the bush cutting pulpwood. My parents decided maybe Allan was a bit too outnumbered with three sisters, so two more brothers were added to the family, Emory and Gordon. We eventually acquired an acreage one and one-half miles south of the hamlet of Prairie River. The river was just across the road from our house and it was here I learned to swim. Many hours were spent in the water pushing a board in front of me to keep afloat.

When I was old enough I started school in Prairie River walking the distance with my older brothers and sisters and later with the younger brothers. We were often accompanied by neighbor children. When I first started school I was apparently quite a trial to Allan as I would either get a head start and beat them all to school or get behind and balk all the way. I'm afraid the willow stick came in handy on more than one occasion. I remember in the cold winter being picked up by a neighbor in a horse drawn caboose with a small wood stove in the corner for warmth on the drive to school.

In the summer of 1952 the family moved back to Alberta where Mother started back teaching at Sydenham School north of Wainwright. With Mother working, this meant everyone pitching in with the household chores.

I'm not sure which caused the most gray hair on Mother's head, teaching or trying to keep us all doing our share of the chores. I know we were more than a handful many times. Some of the students I became friends with here were the Eeles, Goulds, Woodwards and Marchands.

In 1953 we moved to the Holt Hutterite Colony northwest of Irma where Mother taught school. We took up residence in the old Holt ranch house. Doris, Emory, Gordon and I attended Batt School. I took my grades seven and eight at Batt. My teachers were Mrs. Emma Mark and Mrs. Borghild Meakins.

For my grade nine I attended school in Irma. Marian, Doris and I batched in the basement suite at Bert and Gladys Evans (house now owned by Terry and Lucille Meakins) as there was no school bus in our area then. The following year we drove to school taking turns driving with Bert Smith who also went to Irma as grade ten was not taught at Batt. The next year saw the school bus running in our district and us running for the bus. In 1958 Mother was transferred to Irma to teach and we moved into town. Getting to school on time in grade twelve was the hardest as all we had to do was run down the back alley and across the street.

The fall of 1959 saw me venturing to Edmonton to attend McTavish Business College. On leaving college I got a job as clerk-typist working for the government in the Department of Education.

I was married to Bert Smith on May 14, 1960. We live on the family farm north of Irma where we still reside. Our first daughter, Carol Lynn was born on February 25, 1962 in the Viking hospital. I then worked in the Bank of Montreal in Irma for a year and a half, until the end of July, 1964. Our second daughter, Dianne Joan, was born in Viking on August 19, 1964 where upon leaving the hospital the nurses said they would see me again next year. Although I assured them it would never happen our son Douglas Arnold arrived on August 28, 1965.

Where the years have flown I don't know. We seem to

have been kept very busy being involved in figure skating, hockey, 4-H beef club, curling and several community organizations. We had the honor of being chosen Master Farm Family for our area in 1982.

Lynn was married to Bradley McKee on July 28, 1979 and they have two children, Jason and Jody. Dianne is working and Douglas is in grade twelve in school.

I have had many wonderful years, been blessed with a lovely family and great friends and hope to spend many more years enjoying them.

THE TODD SMITH FAMILY

by Marion Smith

Todd Smith married Marion Sauers of Viking, Alberta on November 28, 1964. Marion is a retired Registered Nurse and Todd is an Automotive Mechanic. The Todd Smith family live in Calgary, Alberta. Todd is a Service Manager for a propane company called Cigas Products Limited. They have two sons: Trenton Todd, born on April 25, 1969; Trevor Lane, born on March 23, 1972. Trent is in grade nine and Trevor is in grade six.

Todd, Trent and Trevor are all associated with Little League Baseball in Calgary. Todd coaches and umpires for the baseball league. Trent has played baseball up to this season but now he wants to be an umpire for the league. Trevor is playing on a major team with the Little League.

Trent and Trevor play hockey during the winter season. Trent plays defense for Midnapore Sabre Bantams, double B. Next season he will play for Mid-



Lynn, Jean, Bert, Doug and Dianne Smith.



Trevor, Todd, Marion, and Trent Smith.

napore Midget Hockey. He has also taken a referee course and enjoys refereeing junior hockey games. Trevor plays Pee Wee double B hockey and he is able to play positions of forward, center or defense.

In 1984 Trevor was on the Little League Baseball team which won the Alberta Championship and went on to play in the Canadian Playoff at Moose Jaw with two wins and three losses.

SNYDER FAMILY

from memory of Mrs. Lockhart

The three Snyder brothers, Victor, Reuben and Fred, and their mother were among the very early settlers in the Jarrow district. They homesteaded the N. 1/2 16-47-10 and built their house in the southeast corner of the land.

They came from the States and were very well-to-do people. The mother kept house for her three sons until the time of her death. After the mother's death, Fred took over the housework and he could cook, can fruit or do any household chores as well as a woman. He even knitted socks for the other two.

Victor and Rube did the farming which consisted of three quarters at home and one about three miles east of their home; known as the Lister place. This was Fred's quarter.

These were the first people I met in the district after my husband and I were married in 1920. They took great pride in their horses and treated them almost like human beings. I never knew them to trot them on the road, though they were big heavy horses. They kept a few cows and believe you me they were wild, as they never saw anyone but the men.

They owned one of the first cars in the district, a Ford with snap-on side curtains.



George Theroux, Fred Snyder, Rube Snyder, taken about 1930 on the Snyder's porch.

One thing my kids remember about Victor is that he always had a pipe in his mouth and we never knew him to use it without a homemade shield or cover, a piece of tin bent round to fit the barrel of the pipe with holes punched in the top. Vic had one of the most patched caps I have ever seen, which was the case with all their clothes, even if they had the means, they wasted nothing.

They owned a threshing machine, threshing for a few of the neighbors and ourselves. Vic was the separator man, and Rube the engineer. They were the kind of people who helped build our land, hard-working, very honest folk. Rube was very good with the gun and would never shoot a duck on the water, but would pick them off while flying.

The three brothers were professional baseball players

before coming to Canada.

Every year the Snyder brothers would invite neighbor families in for a meal. What a delight it was to the Theroux or Lockhart girls to set a table with fine linen, lovely china and beautiful silverware. Each brother had his own chair and always sat in his designated place. When neighbors called it was customary to see each brother sitting in his own place darning socks or patching clothes.

Being such honest people, they were very upset when the police found a still on their land. It preyed on their minds, causing their future mental state. They kept farming and taking care of themselves till the late thirties when their health seemed to fail and it was necessary to take them away to be cared for. It is hard to believe people you have known and respected so many years fail so quickly and were not able to care for themselves. Bill Lockhart went to see them in Camrose and he didn't know if they knew him or not. Fred kept asking my husband about their dog which had been dead many years. They have since passed away.

These folk were fine people, honest, dependable and kind. Many times while going east of our place to farm, they would pull in and chat for hours. These are the kind of people that helped make our land a land to be proud of.

Alfred Oracheski farms their land today.

KARL SONEFF FAMILY

Karl Soneff came to Irma in 1917 as Section Foreman for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. The section men patrolled an area of track from Jarrow to Hawkins. This was done in an "open speeder" on a daily basis, regardless of the weather. In cold weather if they couldn't get the speeder started, a section man patrolled the track by walking over the distance of track.



Mr. and Mrs. Soneff's 60th anniversary.

In 1921 Karl married Alice Wozny of Vilna, Alberta and they lived in a house which a "Dad Mildan" built for them. In 1930 the section house was built, where they lived until 1949, when they moved to Jasper, Alberta. Here Karl was Yard Foreman until his retirement in 1956.

They moved to Edmonton where they still reside.

They had four sons and one daughter. Albert and Myrna live in Spruce Grove. Jim passed away in 1972 and his wife Jessie resides in Edmonton. Tony and Josephine live in Surrey, B.C.; Carl and Irma reside in Edmonton. Elvina Stewart lives in White Rock, B.C.

Karl recalls highlights of early times. In 1922 Grand Trunk Pacific Railway was transferred to Canadian National Railway. In 1925 a derailment near Hawkins caused by a head-on crash between a freight and a work train, left several men injured, but no deaths.

Karl and Alice purchased their first car in 1921 - a Model T Ford for six hundred and fifty dollars. He also recalled the Flu of 1919 when both the church and school were used as a temporary hospital. The Irma fire in 1931 was devastating and he recalled forming a water-bucket brigade, which enabled them to save the Bank.

The Soneffs enjoy family ties - one very happy occasion was held in Edmonton in 1981, when Karl and Alice celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary. Except for two family members, the entire family and many friends were able to attend.

THE CHARLES SOUCY FAMILY

On August 30, 1973, Charles and Gayle Soucy, along with their two children, Michael aged 6 and Diana aged 4, transferred to Irma from Armena, where Charles was employed by the Alberta Wheat Pool. Michael started school in Grade 2 on his seventh birthday with Mrs. Clumstad as his teacher. Gayle began working at the Bank of Montreal. All the family enjoyed participating in sports. Charles and Michael loved hockey and fastball, Diana enjoyed figure skating and Gayle played fastball as well. Charles joined the Irma Elks and Gratton Masonic Lodges and served a three-year term on the Village Council. He also spent several years coaching in the minor hockey system. Gayle joined the Irma O.O.R.P. and was active in the Cubs Group Committee.

In the summer of 1979, the Wheat Pool decided to transfer the Soucy's to Bonnyville, but Charles and Gayle decided that Irma was "home". Charles left the elevator and gained employment with Merland Explorations. They purchased the John Pasztor house, moved it to Irma, and after some renovations, moved in. They will be forever grateful to their friends and family who helped them through this major project.

In September, 1980, the United Grain Growers Managers' position came open and Charles decided to buy grain again. He retired from the Aces Hockey and the Irma Tigers ball team, devoting his spare time to coaching hockey and fastball at the Junior level. Michael played goal in the Irma Minor Hockey system to 1982- he then played for the Wainwright Junior Bisons for 2 years. Diana changed from figure skating to Ringette and spent a great deal of time babysitting, following the hockey teams, and attending to her school work. Both children enjoyed volleyball, fastball, and participating in the School Band. In December of 1983, Gayle was promoted to the position of Branch Manager at the Bank of Montreal. Life in Irma for the Soucy's has been exciting and rewarding.



Gayle and Charlie Soucy.



Diane and Michael Soucy.

THE SPINAZE FAMILY

by Phyllis E. Craig

Fiona and Allen Spinaze arrived in Wainwright in January, 1969, and found accommodation in the Wainwright Holdings. They had two wooden trunks and a suitcase, and this was the total amount of their furnishings for a time.

They both had trained at the University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales, Australia. Fiona has a B.Sc., double major in Chemistry, and Al has a B.A. (Honours in Economics) and M.Ed. from the Sydney University. They had been teaching in Sydney for about four years before answering advertisements placed in the Australian papers by the Wainwright School Division. Carl Peterson, Superintendent, telephoned them for an "interview". It was 4:00 a.m. Australian time, and they were both confused by the "interview". Mr. Peterson offered them both jobs, to commence in Wainwright High School at the beginning of Semester 2. They accepted on the spot.

They arrived in Wainwright at the C.N.R. station at 4:00 a.m. in the middle of three weeks of "40 below" weather, and a blizzard to boot! Strangers in a strange land - knowing nobody at all for thousands of miles! Within two days they were confusing the Wainwright students with their Australian accents, and remained in Wainwright until the end of the 1970-71 school year. In June, 1971 Al was appointed Vice-Principal of the Irma

School, and Principal Designate to replace Mr. Donald Gunn who was to retire in a year.

He became Principal in 1972, and remained in this capacity for four years. Fiona taught Junior High Science, Senior Chemistry, and Physics in both Wainwright and Irma, while Al taught Social Studies 30, Economics 30, Accounting 10 and 20 in both schools.

Fiona and Al lived in a home they purchased from Earl Blanchard - the house now owned by Lawrence Savage. Here they raised two children - Nathan, born in the Wainwright hospital May 29, 1972, and Katrina, born February 9, 1975.



Fiona and Allan Spinaze.



Damian, Nathan, and Katrina Spinaze in 1983.

Al and Fiona became an important part of the Irma community. They were avid outdoor enthusiasts, and became expert skiers. Al was a member of the Alberta Teachers' Association, Wainwright Local, negotiating committee; they attended St. Mary's Anglican Church, where their children were baptized; they participated enthusiastically in many community activities.

They were no longer "strangers in a strange land." Their return to Australia in 1976 saddened numerous friends, young and old. A third child was added to their family on February 25, 1977. Damian was born in Townsville, a city in Queensland, where both Fiona and

Al are teaching - Fiona teaches Junior High Science in the Cathedral School, and Al is the "Geography Master" in Kirwan State High School.

ELVA SPRING

Most of Elva's life has been spent in the Irma district. She came with her family in 1908 from South Dakota at the age of five years. Her father, Olaf Larson, had come a year earlier, filed on a homestead, and prepared a sod house to live in until it could be replaced by a log structure.

The four children of the Larson family, Isabel, Alfred, Elva and Gladys were in need of schooling. Thus, in their home in March, 1911, the Larson School District was organized. The name was changed later to Coal Springs because of the land features nearby. The Larson family were also on the first membership list of Sharon Lutheran Church organized a year previously in November, 1910. The new schoolhouse would serve as a church with Olaf Larson volunteer janitor for a number of years. He also used his musical talents as choir leader and band master.

The Larson family did leave the area for a while, spending two years in Washington State, 1919-1921.

Elva married Pete Spring in 1925. After the death of her father in 1943, Elva and Pete with their son Oren



Pete, Elva, and Orin Spring.

went to live and care for Elva's mother in her large home. Mrs. Larson died in 1959.

The Spring family took part in district activities, especially those pertaining to Sharon Lutheran Church. Both Pete and Elva were choir members through the years. After some time of failing health, Pete died in 1970. Only eight years later, Elva lost her son also. This was an especially sad blow for her. However, her faith and courage have sustained her. She continues to live in her home on the original homestead. Arnold Lien has looked after her farming these last years.

On May 2nd, 1983, relatives and friends gathered at her home to honor Elva on her eightieth birthday. Her home and friends are here, but close relatives from the coast and elsewhere visit her periodically each year. Elva is now the only living member of her immediate family.

ORBIN SPROULE

One of the first Orbindale settlers was the Sproule family. Orbin Sr. with his two sons, Harry and Ernest, Ernest's wife, and Orbin Jr. arrived in 1906. They homesteaded on Section 28-47-9, now owned by Ted Prior. Their occupation at this time was more ranching as the wide open spaces were well suited for such. Before many years passed Harry and Orbin Sr. moved to Edmonton. Ernest and family soon after moved to a farm north of Mannville.

ALBERT SQUIRES

Albert Squires was born June 8th, 1863 and was a native of Toronto, but lived in the Irma district for forty years. His home in the Roseberry district was situated on the land owned by Paul Nemyo. During the latter part of his life he lost his eyesight and had to be cared for by friends. Mrs. Ben Oldham and Younkers were especially good to him. Friends kindly knew him as Shorty Squires.

His only son was killed in World War I. Mr. Squires suffered a stroke and passed away in Wainwright on June 1st, 1954.

JAMES STEAD FAMILY

Jim and Bessie Stead came from the Old Country as soldier settlers first to Jarrow and then to Irma on S.W. 7-46-8 in the Alma Mater district. They had two little boys when they came and later another boy and girl completed their family. Life in Canada must have been very different for them and the depression of the thirties did not make life easy but like everyone else they managed. The children Sam, Jack, Jimmy and Cathie all attended Alma Mater School and Irma High School and Jack and Cathie continued on into University.

When Sam was old enough, he joined the army as did Jim Senior as a prisoner of war guard at a camp near Lethbridge. Bessie and the remaining children followed Jim in 1945. When the war was over Jim obtained employment in the carpentry business and Sam worked in the Lethbridge Post Office. He later moved to a Post

Office in Fernie, B.C. He is married and has two children. Jack returned to teach at Education Point School and later he taught at Foremost and for many years at Central High in Lethbridge. He is presently with a travel agency conducting tours throughout North America.

Cathie obtained a Master's degree in Education and after teaching for some time married Herbert Johnstone. They live at Nanton. Jimmy is married and has two children.

Jim and Bessie still live at Lethbridge.

CLARKE STEELE FAMILY

Clarke Steele came west with his parents in 1906. They homesteaded in the Roseberry district.

On May 20, 1931 Clarke Steele and June (Jean) Walker were married in Irma United Church. They moved to the Lemaster farm. He also farmed the Ned Ripley homestead at one time and bought a quarter section of C.P.R. land.

During the Second War he moved to Fabyan and bought and operated the Store and Post Office for four and a half years before returning to the farm in 1946.

To that union one daughter and two sons were born:

Margaret (Steele) Jackart makes her home in Calgary. She trained as a nurse in Calgary General Hospital but gave that up when she married. She has two daughters, two sons and three grandchildren.

She works for the Department of Weights and Measures in Calgary.

Clarke lives on the home farm and also owns the Ned Ripley homestead. He is also a trucker.

Keith married Darlene Burton. They have a son and one daughter. Keith is co-owner of Bison Freightlines Ltd., Wainwright. His wife Darlene, works in the office and son Keith Jr. is a driver for the company.

After Clarke's death in 1952, Jean worked in the post office in Wainwright for awhile. She then moved to Calgary where she met and married Michael Marthaller.

She worked in the post office and sub offices for twenty-five years before retiring. Her husband Michael (Mike) passed away in June 1980. She now has a family of one daughter, two sons, three stepdaughters, four stepsons, forty-one grandchildren and forty-two great-grandchildren. Jean resides at the Bow Valley Lodge, Calgary, Alberta.

W.B. STEELE AND FAMILY

Bill Steele Sr. came west on a harvest excursion in 1905, liked the west, and in 1906 he, J.G. Clark and E. "Ned" Ripley took up homesteads in the Roseberry area on NW 36-45-8. William had farmed in Vars, Ontario and managed the Frost and Wood Machinery agency. He had also worked in lumber camps and hauled mail to out-of-the-way places in the winter.

Mr. Steele and the oldest son, Bill, left Ottawa, Ontario, with their settlers' effects in the winter of 1907. Mr. Steele was to telegraph his wife when they arrived in

Mannville, Alberta. She waited six weeks and, as no word came, she and the rest of the family left for Alberta. Mr. Steele and Bill arrived the night before Mrs. Steele and the family did.

Bill Steele was a good supporter of the Irma Fair in early times. He had many entries including Clydesdale horses, Shorthorn cattle, and chickens. Sarah always entered her jams and baking.



Bessie Wakefield's parents Mr. and Mrs. W.B. Steele in 1915.

The Steeles had a dog that enjoyed Fairs and Sports Days as well as the family. When the ball games started the dog would wait for the ball to be batted and then go and bring the ball to one of the Steele family and drop it at their feet. Quickly they would throw the ball hoping that no one knew the dog belonged to them.

Sarah Steele was country postmistress after J.G. Clark left his ranch. She served on the Roseberry School Board for a number of years.

Mr. and Mrs. Steele had three sons and three daughters. William (Bill) homesteaded the land adjoining his dad's - SW 36-45-8. Bill was married while serving overseas in World War One. Bill and his wife May have now passed away, Bill in January of 1944 and May on January 1, 1984, at the age of ninety-two years. Kenneth purchased his father's and grandfather's land. He married Dorothy Nash. Ken has passed on and his wife now owns the land. Keith married Neva Kent of the Battle Heights district and they moved to California where Neva and her family still reside. Clarke Steele married Jane (Jean) Walker. They purchased the LeMaster farm and at one time rented the Ned Ripley farm. Clarke passed away in 1952. Jean lives in Calgary. Clarke Jr. purchased the Ned Ripley land after it had previously been owned by Godfrey Leduc and Ralph King. Marjorie trained for a nurse at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, and after receiving her diploma she married Robert Deans and moved to Ontario



W.B. Steele and Bessie and Marjorie, Keith and Clark Steele about 1908.

where she resided until her death. Ina married Chris Knudson and moved south of Irma. After Chris' death she moved to Irma and became postmistress. She held this office until shortly before her death. Elizabeth (Bessie) married James Wakefield and moved to the Battle Heights district. Refer to the Jim Wakefield history.

In later years the Steele house was moved to Wainwright.

THE STEFFENSEN STORY

by Solveig Raasok

Although he was a graduate of a technical school in Norway, and had employment in his trade, Oskar Steffensen wanted to be a farmer. His decision to come to Canada was probably influenced by a publication authorized in 1907 by the Honorable Frank Oliver of the federal cabinet in Ottawa, printed in Norwegian and sold in Norway. It was entitled "The Last Best West" (literal translation from Norwegian). The cover also included the following captions: "Canada in the Twentieth Century", "Central Canada - Home for Millions", "Great Help for Agriculture, Whether Grain or Mixed Farming, Dairying or Ranching", and in English, but best of all, "Free, 160 Acres of Western Canada Farm Land." The contents included maps of Canada, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, numerous pictures of the various types of farming, and detailed information about climate, soil, crop yields, towns and cities, schools and churches.

He left Norway, April 11th, 1908, accompanied by his younger brother, destined for Wetaskiwin, where they had a name and address. Failing to get farm work there, they went to work on the railroad east of Wainwright, going by train to Hardisty, and in a wagon pulled by mules from there to the construction site. They did not complete a day's work because the brother suffered a sunstroke in the afternoon of May 6th, and died during the night before the doctor from Hardisty arrived. After constructing a temporary coffin for his brother, he returned with him to Wetaskiwin for the funeral because they had made the acquaintance of some Scandinavians, and attended church during their earlier brief stay there.

After that great loss, and unexpected expense, he was, fortunately, able to get a job at Wetaskiwin cutting brush for Mr. Gullekson. Through him he met Thore Hanson who told him that there was open land near his

homestead on N.W. 18-45-9, and later assisted in choosing Steffensen's homestead on N.W. 17-45-9. When he eventually came from Wetaskiwin via Loughheed, where he hired a man with a wagon and horses to transport him and his luggage, as well as a second-hand stove, supplies and lumber purchased in Loughheed, Thore Hanson also kindly gave him lodging and helped build his tiny one-roomed house which he occupied Christmas Eve, 1908. Three years later this house was moved one hundred and fifty yards north to the present farmstead, added to, and used until 1928 when the present house was built by Mr. Simmons. This original house is still standing, and is of great interest to frequent visitors from Norway.

Luckily, the winter of 1908-09 was mild so that he was able to build his house in December, and walk to Loughheed for supplies, and mail, of which there must have been a great deal judging by the number of letters found in his trunk. The first letter to be postmarked Irma, was in April, 1909, but it had to be forwarded to Wetaskiwin because by then he had returned there to earn more money with which to buy oxen, etc. to begin farming. When he was working at Wetaskiwin, a neighbor, John B. Gulbraa and family, lived in his house while building their first home.



Oskar, Arlene, Solveig and Anna Steffensen.

His first thirty acres were broken by Henry Kasten in the fall of 1909. According to his record book for the years 1911-13 he sold dozens of eggs both locally and to Edmonton. He also sold poultry, potatoes, cabbages (some to Kastens) carrots, beets, onions and even vegetable marrows, pigs, and some pork to Stewart and Petersen, butter (starting in June, 1912) seed wheat and

flax. This record book also revealed that he bought baking from Mrs. J.B. Gulbraa, that a return trip by train to Wainwright cost ninety-five cents, a dinner in Irma twenty-five cents and membership in the Irma Agriculture Society one dollar.

Even though he must have been very busy with his mixed farming operation, he also helped organize Sharon Lutheran Church in 1910, supported the first Irma Agriculture Society which also started in 1910, helped establish the first Irma Co-op store, eventually served as secretary for Glenholm School, and was a member of the first board of the Irma High School, Alberta's first rural high school. He also actively supported the farm organizations such as the United Grain Growers and United Farmers of Alberta, and became a founding member of the Alberta Wheat Pool in 1923.

In 1914 he was able to return to his homeland for a visit while a young friend from Norway looked after his farm. Unfortunately, he became ill, had to be hospitalized and undergo surgery, so his stay became longer than planned, and he didn't return until March, 1915.

In 1916, he, with the help of Joe Gulbraa's "housekeeper" who had come to Canada in 1913, also acquired a "housekeeper" from Norway. (These ladies, who had become friends while working in Bodo, Norway, learned to ride horseback and often rode to visit each other, as well as other neighbors). However, he did not marry his "housekeeper" until 1923, because she also worked in Edmonton and Winnipeg and made a trip back to her homeland first.

They had four children, all born at home, but the two youngest died in infancy. Mrs. Steffensen's competence with horses again proved useful as she often took their two daughters, Solveig and Arlene, to both Glenholm School, and Irma High School during the winter with the cutter and a team of horses.

Since the older daughter, Solveig, and her husband took over the farming operation in 1952, Oskar Steffensen was able to live on his farm until 1979 except for numerous trips to Norway between 1952 and 1975 when he made his last trip at the age of ninety-three. In December, 1979, because of frail health, he became a resident of Wainwright Auxiliary Hospital where he died on March 5th, 1982, two months and two days before his one hundredth birthday. His wife had predeceased him in September, 1962.

(The 1907 publication, the ticket from Oslo to Wetaskiwin, letters dated from 1908, the first Irma Co-op correspondence, Irma Agriculture Society Fair book, United Farmers of Alberta Convention book etc. were discovered in the trunk he brought with him in 1908 as this new history was being written.)

ANDY STEWART

I appreciate the idea of providing a biography of myself as a one-time resident of Irma. I'm presently employed at CFAR Radio in Flin Flon, Manitoba and hold a position as sales manager. Besides the sales end, I handle a regular air shift and produce commercial spots for the various merchants in our coverage area.

I'm married to the former Isabel Scott of Wingham,

Ontario and have one daughter, Mary Louise. Isabel is presently employed as Director of Ambulance and Transportation Services at the Flin Flon General Hospital. Mary Lou is attending the University of Windsor and is majoring in the field of Neuropsychology. Now in her Masters studies she eventually hopes to receive her Ph.D.

Going back to a few years following high school, I moved to Edmonton and took on a job with Swift Canadian Co. as a billing clerk. During the next several years I worked at Picklington Glass in the paint department and also spent time as Court Clerk for the City Police Department. In the interim, I took voice lessons for Radio and studied violin at Alberta College. Robert Goulet who was employed with CKUA radio was also taking voice lessons at the same time. Robert and I emceed live musical shows on CKUA every Saturday morning. In 1955 I sent an audition tape to CFGP in Grande Prairie and got a full-time job. When I first applied for a position with CFGP, Grande Prairie, I was turned down, but on the advice of a well-known radio announcer, I sent another tape with the name Andy Stewart instead of Andy Oracheski, and was accepted ... a career in broadcasting. I was assigned to an air shift - we call it D.J. and I soon discovered that timing was of great importance. For instance, all programs, news and sports must be aired at exact times according to the schedule shown on the log. After a couple of years in radio I decided to break away from the pressure and join the R.C.A.F. In the service I studied morse code in Clinton, Ontario and worked in the control tower in Gimli, Manitoba. Throughout these years I spent many hours playing the fiddle for dances and party gatherings. When I got out of service I ended up in Barrie, Ontario and joined a country band namely "Paul Emms and his Green Valley Boys." Besides dances and shows we had a weekly one hour radio program on CKBB plus a half-hour show on CKVR-TV. Sometime later CKNX radio TV were looking for a control room operator and I applied and was accepted. It also gave me a D.J. job and I played on many of their TV country shows. This is where I met my wife, Isabel, who was employed as a nurse at the Wingham General Hospital.

After a couple of years at CKNX I got a call from Norm Hickey at CFSL in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, who was looking for a D.J. Norm and I worked at Grande Prairie (CFGF). Being a Westerner, I accepted and we left for Weyburn and remained for five years. Other stations included CHAT Medicine Hat, CKSA Lloydminster, CHAB Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan and now CFAR Radio where we've been since 1970. Besides playing the fiddle, other hobbies include photography and for a number of years I've held an auctioneer's license.

Some of the high points in my broadcasting career were the interviews of many of the country stars of today. In 1964 I had the opportunity to interview Dan Blocker from the Bonanza TV series at the State Line Restaurant on the Montana/North Dakota border. In this business you can get to see many sporting events such as CFL football and NHL games. I took in the Team Canada series which was played in Winnipeg a couple of years

ago. I've also appeared on Lions Telethon for the past several years and this February, 1984 will be hosting an hour show. It's telecast on CTV covering Manitoba and Northern Ontario.

Well, that's my story and in June of 1984 I'll be celebrating my twenty-sixth year in broadcasting and I can honestly say it's been an interesting and a satisfying career.

WILLIAM (BILLY) STEWART

William (Billy) Stewart was born in Toronto, Ontario, in January, 1891. He was the youngest son of William and Mary Stewart. His parents had come from Scotland to Toronto in 1889.

In his early "teens" he and his brother, Walter, worked with their father, who was a stonecutter by trade. They worked with the stonecutters building Riverdale High School in Toronto in 1907.

Late in 1908 Uncle Billy came west with his brother-in-law, Sidney Miles. He picked out a homestead site north of Gales, but couldn't file on it until after his eighteenth birthday in January, 1909. Early in 1909 the NE 1/4-28-46-9 became his homestead.

The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway was being built westward and Uncle Billy was time-keeper when they were building the trestle at Kinsella. He continued with his work until the railway passed Edson up to the large curved bridge over Wolf Creek.

He worked with Stuart and Peterson in their butcher shop in Irma after looking after his homestead duties. He played on the early baseball team at Irma.

Uncle Billy lived on his homestead until he enlisted in the army in 1915. He sold his land before leaving Canada. He was in the battle-fields until the Armistice was signed in November, 1918, and returned to Canada in March, 1919.



Billy and Edith Stewart on their 50th wedding anniversary, 1969. Mrs. J.W. (Lil) Stewart in the background.

Sid. Miles had kept Billy's horses and cattle while he was overseas, so he had a little something to start over again.

He bought Pete Floren's farm, three miles north of Irma in 1919. In December, 1919, he married Edith Scott of Olds, Alberta. They lived on this farm until they retired to live in Irma in the sixties. Uncle Billy served on the School Board for Ross School for a couple of terms. He also served as councillor for his area in the Wainwright municipality for several years.

Edith was a member of the W.I. from its beginning at Irma, until failing health made it necessary for her to be hospitalized.

They were both great gardeners, and it was a joy to see their garden.

Billy sold his farm to Mr. Perron, who in turn sold it to Mr. Bob Meakins.

Uncle Billy passed away in August, 1974. Aunt Edith is still living in the Auxiliary Hospital in Wainwright.

They celebrated their Golden Wedding in December, 1969. They had no family.

Aunt Edith has passed away since this history was written.

BURT STIMSON FAMILY

by Elsie and Fern

Burt Stimson was born in Pender, Nebraska in 1888, one of a family of nine boys and girls. In 1909 Burt married Cora Peterson. Cora, who was teaching school at Emerson, Nebraska, at the time, was a daughter of Frank and Annabelle Peterson of Irma, Alberta. This is what probably brought them to the Irma district to file for a homestead in 1910. The homestead was located south of Irma on the N.W. 28-44-9, and they arrived with their first born son, Everett. In the following years there were five more children born to them. Two more sons, Dean and Raymond, and three girls, Mary, Elsie and Fern. Many hardships were endured in those early days, but also many happy times as Cora had brought her organ from Nebraska. Many an evening was spent singing and playing. Cora was a beautiful singer.

Burt owned one of the first steam threshing outfits in the area. Some years the threshing lasted for forty-two days in the fall. This was a difficult time for Cora to be left alone with the small children, but it was accepted, as this was the way it was in the early homestead days. The men had to earn a living in various ways.

Fern, the youngest, was born on the train enroute to Edmonton, and was wrapped in her Uncle Warren Peterson's woolen undershirt until she arrived at the hospital. Six weeks later, in May, 1918, Cora passed away leaving six small children. This was a sad and difficult time for Burt, but relatives were so good to help him. In the spring of 1919 it was necessary to separate the family, the three boys went to Nebraska to live with their grandmother Stimson, and the three girls lived with their grandparents, Frank and Annabelle Peterson of Irma. The boys stayed in Nebraska for five years.

Burt had a very good team of driving horses and in the winter of 1918, during the terrible flu epidemic, he drove Dr. McGregor around the country. Patients were treated



Burt and Cora Stimson on July 3, 1909.

in their own homes, so there were long drives over winding prairie trails and snow blocked roads. Many died with their heads on his shoulder, but he never contacted the flu.

In 1924 Burt, along with his daughters, Mary, Elsie and Fern, and Grandma Peterson, went to Nebraska to bring the boys home. What a happy reunion this was, as the girls did not remember their brothers! The first night they arrived was the boys' Christmas concert and the girls were asked to sing. Needless to say we were so tired after four days and three nights of train riding, we stopped many times to yawn, much to the enjoyment of the crowd.

In 1929 Burt went to live in Wainwright where he worked in the oil fields. He was there when the depression hit and almost overnight a lot of folks were out of a job.

Everett Stimson married Gladys Olsin in 1934 and later moved to Minnesota with the Olsin family. They had a family of four children. When the Second World War broke out Everett joined the navy. He saw much action in Okinawa and was there when the terrible typhoons hit. More ships were lost as a result of these storms than from the actual war. In his words, when one of these storms let up there were fifty-eight ships piled up on the reef or sunk. He returned from the war for Christmas and the following March, 1946, he passed away. It was a great



Burt Stimson Family: Raymond, Everett, Dean, Elsie, Fern, Mary.

shock as he was a young healthy man when he went into the war.

Dean Stimson married Mary Latch of Wainwright and were blessed with a family of five. After farming a few years at Irma, Dean and his family moved to Dapp, Alberta, where he farmed for twenty-nine years before retiring to Westlock and eventually to Winfield, B.C.

Raymond married and had five children. He joined the R.C.A.F. in the last war. He had a sheet metal business in Edmonton for many years and then moved to an acreage at Adrossan, where he passed away in 1974.

Mary married Armand Briault and their family consisted of eight children. Armand and Mary lived in Irma a few years and later moved to Dapp where he drove a school bus for many years. Mary passed away in 1972. Armand now resides at Camrose.

Elsie and Harry Geel married and have now retired in Kelowna, B.C. They also farmed in the Dapp area and then moved to Oregon, where they resided for eighteen years. There were five children.

Fern and Peter Harvey were married in the Irma district where they farmed and then later moved to Dapp. They eventually moved to Prince George, B.C. where their family of four still resides. Peter and Fern have also retired to Kelowna, B.C.

Burt moved to Dapp in his later years to be near his children. He bought a farm there and farmed until 1953 when he passed away. He came home to rest by his wife, Cora, in the Irma cemetery to the place where they started their life together so many years ago.

Sure Cure

If it's true that time heals,
Then we would, I assume,
Have to go no farther
Than our doctor's waiting room!

DEAN STIMSON

by Mary Stimson

Dean was born in Irma on October 26, 1911, the day that the town of Irma was burning down. After the death of his mother in 1918, the boys went to the Stimson grandparents in Nebraska for five years. Upon returning, he made his home with Aunt Edith (Peterson) Bouck at Heath, Alberta. As a teenager, he returned to Irma and worked for Bert Clelland and Art Long among others in the district.

In 1936, he married Mary Latch of Wainwright. Dean worked at Buffalo Park in Wainwright making hay in summer and feeding buffalo in winter. He was earning thirty cents an hour, which was considered a high rate of pay at the time. In 1940 the Buffalo Park closed and we moved to Irma and rented the Paul Szoke farm for one year. That fall it took all our earnings to buy one milk cow and four pail bunter calves which Dean bought at a sale for sixty-eight dollars. We then rented the Fred White farm until 1944. The second year of farming turned out to be a dry year and many fields were not good enough to harvest. We received two hundred and fifty bushels of wheat for our share; No. 1 wheat was fifty cents a bushel that year.

Farming was a new experience for me and I had many challenges. I did not know anyone, however Gladys Rubenok turned out to be one of my dear friends, among others Mrs. Wiese and Mrs. Art Long who came and stayed with us while she looked after a very sick baby for us when roads were all snowed in.

Dean bought two incubators at a sale and they were set up under the kitchen table. We raised hundreds of baby chicks, even sold some. Chickens, turkeys, eggs and cream were sold to supplement our income. A five gallon can of sweet cream was worth two dollars.



Gerald, Iris, Patsy, Dean, Mary, Teresa, and Ronald.

We had three children by 1942, Gerald, Patricia and Iris. The house we lived in had stovepipes running the entire length of the house. Needless to say, several times the pipes burned out. Luckily, Dean was close by these times. The rain barrel by the corner saved the old house many times. In winter, whenever an east wind blew we

could hardly keep warm. The woodpile really went down quickly those days. We dreamed of owning a farm of our own and heard of a place north of Edmonton, where there was level land of good black loam and no rocks. Dean and his brother-in-law Peter Harvey went to investigate. They each bought a farm at Dapp about fifty miles northwest of Edmonton. On March 1, 1945 we moved all our belongings in two boxcars from Irma to Dapp, Alberta. Even moving became a traumatic experience as a prairie snow blizzard developed overnight before we finished moving. The roads were impassable for cars, so the children and I had to ride on top of a sleigh box full of young calves. Our neighbor George Rubenok, the driver of the horses, had to try and pick a trail through the high snowbanks in the field. Finally the sleigh box tipped over, there we were the three children and I in the middle of a snow covered field. We walked to Mary and Bob Dempsey, once there the road was good and thus our exit from Irma. We had two more children while at Dapp, Ronald and Teresa. Our children received all of their education in the Dapp and Westlock schools. In 1974, Dean was ready to retire, so we sold the farm and moved to Westlock for six years. In 1980 we moved to Winfield, British Columbia where we now live beside many of our old friends and neighbors, also sisters Elsie and Fern and their families.

Our family are all grown up and living good lives. Gerald and Gwen and their children, Byron, Lorie, Scot and Kelly are living at Whitecourt, Alberta. Gerald is a heavy duty mechanic for Mobil Oil. He has a special interest in photography.

Patricia and Howard Cox live in Bon Accord, Alberta. Howard has retired from the Royal Canadian Navy. They have a plumbing maintenance business in Edmonton. They have three girls: Terry, Bonnie and Angie.

Iris and Jim Humble are farming in Linaria, Alberta. They have two boys, Bradley and Darrin.

Ronald and Jeannette are living in Red Deer, Alberta. Ron is a supervisor of maintenance at the Alberta Energy and Ethylene plant at Jeoffry. They have two children, Shawna and Shane.

Teresa and Barry Kaye live in Edmonton. Teresa was a teacher in Westlock and Sherwood Park schools. She is now at home with two children, Amanda and Curtis. Barry is in the Edmonton City Police force.

Life has been good to us. Although there have been trials and disappointments, we have always conquered by the happiness of finding many dear friends all along the way.

TED STOCKTON FAMILY

Ted Stockton came to Irma the fall of 1935 to settle on a C.P.R. quarter section five miles north and two miles west in the Ross School district. He made several trips back to Chauvin where his wife and two children were living. On one of these trips he brought back an eight by ten shack which he lived in all that winter. He also brought his well-boring machine and hoped for an odd job of digging a well for anyone needing water. That winter he cut poles and hauled straw and constructed a pole barn to put two cows and a team of horses in. He



Mr. and Mrs. T. Stockton's thirtieth anniversary in 1948.

also cut a pile of bigger trees to saw into lumber and shingles for a permanent barn. Earl and Bob Burr helped out by having the shack warm and a pot of stew on for Ted when he arrived home which he appreciated very much.

In April Mrs. Stockton and daughter Vivian arrived from Chauvin, living in the shack and sleeping in a granary which Ted had built during the winter. Mrs. Stockton sold the home in Chauvin and with that money Ted had a trucker bring lumber from Winfield to build a house. Roy Miles helped Ted dig a basement and put in a cement foundation for the house 18' x 24'. He also helped put up the framework and this was all ready for the shingles at the end of June. When their oldest daughter Deloraine arrived from Chauvin after her June exams, she and Dad shingled the house. A truck from Chauvin brought the furniture and they settled down for twenty years of farming.

They found out later that this part of the country was called "the murder belt" and rightly so, as one of the teachers at Ross School was threatened and that delayed Vivian for a year. She started school at seven years of age instead of six.

Times were *tough* but Ted was very handy at everything and he and his wife sawed lumber slabs from the logs and also cut shingles for the roof of the first wood barn on the farm. His family helped in every way possible, pulling stumps, picking stones every year until they quit farming. Ted was a good clean farmer and kept his land pretty clean of weeds. He broke one hundred and twenty acres of cropland. He built a blacksmith shop and his neighbors were welcome to use it at anytime which they did, instead of taking their repairs into Irma.

The last ten years on the farm Ted was in Wainwright Hospital every spring and every fall with pneumonia and arthritis, but thanks to the good neighbors who helped with all chores etc. Alf Larson and Ted worked together for six or eight years helping each other when either one was sick and hospitalized.

The year 1956 the crop was hailed one hundred percent, so when his son-in-law Bill Stewart came down to see how things were, he told Ted to quit, sell the farm and contents and leave as he was killing himself and his wife also. Dr. Doug Wallace told us the same thing. Ted sold

our half section to Earl Burr and had a sale of everything on October 26th. They rented a suite in town and lived there for two months until the girls were through at Christmas.

Ted served on the School Board as a trustee for four years and as chairman for twelve years he was instrumental in getting a school bus to pick up the children from Ross school district and bussing them to Irma, Ed Sharkey as driver.



Vivian, Kathleen and Donna Stockton.

Kathleen loved to ride the tractor and helped her dad in many ways. A cup of coffee and lunch was always available at the Stocktons for the neighbors or who happened along. Even the R.C.M.P. stopped for lunch or a meal when they were out hunting the rustlers. We all had many accidents during those years, but we all seemed to survive after hospital and doctor's care.

Murle Larson gave us a farewell party with many neighbors present. We lived for two months in a basement suite at the home of Bert and Gladys Evans before moving to Tofield. Our son-in-law Alex helped move us to Tofield. Kathleen and Donna finished their high school in Tofield.

Ted enjoyed his favorite sport fishing and camping for many years. He passed away in June, 1981 at the age of 92 after a long illness. Mrs. Stockton and Kathleen are still in Tofield.

Deloraine and Bill Stewart live in Edmonton. Vivian and George live on a farm at Chipman. Vivian enjoys farm life. Kathleen lives in Tofield. Donna lives in Fort Saskatchewan.

R.H. (BOB) STONE

by Mrs. Guiltner

Mr. R.H. Stone came to Irma from Tofield in approximately 1928. He opened a bakery in the building which is now the south part of the Irma Co-op. Mrs. Bessie Pierce, now Mrs. L.L. Guiltner, assisted him for two weeks.

He later spent some time in Paradise Valley. When he returned to Irma he located on the west side of the street, close to where Pond's Cafe is at present. He operated a

bakery and convenience store. Bread was selling at three loaves for twenty-five cents or ten cents per loaf.

He built the house next to the present A.G.T. building. It was burned in the winter of 1981.

Taken from the Irma Times - April 20th, 1934:

Thugs felled R.H. Stone and robbed him of seventy dollars. Mr. Robt. Stone, Irma's genial baker, received the surprise of his life last Saturday evening when he stepped outside his bake shop to close up for the night.

As usual, Mr. Stone locked his front door on the inside, and taking the cash out of the till put it in his pocket and went out through the kitchen to the back door on the south side of the building. On this particular night the wind was blowing hard and the night was extremely dark, particularly around this back door as there was no light from the street showing here.

Mr. Stone did not see or hear anyone. When he regained consciousness he was sitting in a coal bin just inside the door he had left about forty or forty-five minutes before. At 11:25 p.m. Mr. Stone was able to make his way into the harness repair shop next door from where he obtained assistance. Dr. Greenberg took the injured man to the Wainwright Hospital for an X-ray examination which showed there were no fractures. The police were notified and immediately started an investigation, but apparently could find no clue.

All the cash which Mr. Stone had in his pockets amounting to seventy dollars was taken by the thug or thugs.

MRS. KRISTINE STOUGAARD

taken from Irma Times - 1951

Mrs. Stougaard was born in Fredericia, Denmark, she came to the U.S. at the age of 18 years. In 1889 at Neenah, Wisconsin she met and married Lauritz Stougaard. From here in 1914 they moved to a farm east of Irma, where she lived, except for a short period, until 1943. Mr. Stougaard passed away in 1934. After a short stay in Los Angeles, Mrs. Stougaard and her son Julius returned to a farm east of Irma where she lived until her death, February 9, 1951.

LAURITZ STOUGAARD

taken from Irma Times - 1934

Mr. and Mrs. Stougaard with two of their children, Julius and Gladys, moved onto the E.W. Armstrong homestead eight miles southeast of Irma in 1914. They had come from Neenah, Wisconsin, U.S.A. They carried on farming until Mr. Stougaard passed away on April 26, 1934.

He was survived by 4 children: Halger of Los Angeles; Julius of Irma; Anna, (Mrs. K. Campbell) of Huntington Park, California; and Gladys, (Mrs. J. Hamilton) of Paynton, Saskatchewan. Gladys has passed away.

The Catch

Yes, two can live as cheaply as one.

Even today it can be done.

**There's just one thing that might be irking,
The two today must both be working.**

GEORGE ANDREW STRAND

George or "Guy" as he was known to his friends, was born January 27th, 1894 at Fiskabyda, Norway. He immigrated to Irma in 1911 and later homesteaded in the Lynx district. He went to U.S.A. in 1926 but returned to Canada in 1928, and started farming in Education Point district. About 1947 he went to Edmonton and worked as a carpenter for several years before retiring. Guy was a brother to Mrs. "Cap" Larson. He passed away on March 14th, 1965.

Art Pierce owns the land today and Leigh and Glenda Pierce make their home there.



Mr. Guy Strand and Alf Larson.

CHARLES SWAILES

On May 24, 1904 Charlie and Tanny Swailes arrived at the developing townsite of Irma and set up a tent in a spring snowstorm. They lived in the tent with a young family until they could get a general store and residence erected. With the help of other settlers this was soon accomplished.

Tanny was very active with the Ladies Aid and both she and Charlie were members of the Methodist Church Board, later the United Church, and they helped to get the first church built. In the meantime church was held in their home. Later when those of the Roman Catholic



Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Swailes two of Irma's old-timers.

faith wished to build a church, Charlie sold them the land where St. Theresa's church now stands.

In 1906 they had persuaded Tanny's sister and brother-in-law Elthon and Martha Chase to leave Michigan for the Canadian West too. Elthon and Charlie both filed on homesteads, Elthon south of Irma where Harry Long now resides and Charlie further west. In 1912 the Chases returned to Michigan and the Swailes returned with them. However they both planned to return so they left their boys, Orville Chase and Edger Swailes, who were about fourteen at the time to prove up the homesteads. The next year the boys rejoined their parents in Michigan and some time later the Swailes sold their property at Irma. Charlie and Tanny eventually settled in California where they spent their remaining years.

CLARENCE AND SHIRLEY SWANSON (NEE ENGER)

by Shirley Swanson

I am the oldest of the four children of Ole and Alma Enger, born in June, 1931. When we were small children we lived on a farm near the Hawkins station east of Irma.

A few things from those years are still vivid memories. Since our farm was on the hill above the railroad we walked to the brow of the hill one Sunday in July to watch the "circus train" going to Saskatoon. Actually, it was the midway from the Edmonton Exhibition being moved to Saskatoon.

I well remember our dad carrying drinking water from a spring partway down the hill toward the station. Sometimes he used a team and hauled water up the hill on a stoneboat. Alice always liked to ride on one of the horses, but that was too far off the ground for my liking.

There was a soft water spring in the coulee on Charlie Wilbraham's land that we rented. The wash water was hauled from there.

In the summer we would move to the small house on Charlie's land in the coulee because there was good pasture and water for the milk cows. The cream was shipped by train to the creamery in Viking and the local train would stop at the crossing east of the station to pick up the cream cans when it was flagged down.

We could see the gauge on the railroad water tower that was west of the river, so we would watch the bulb go down as a train was taking on water and then watch it slowly rise as water was pumped back in from the Battle River.

We lived two miles south of Highway 14 and the road had several small sharp rises. Walter, Alice and Pat thought it was great when our dad drove over these fast. I didn't - I got carsick.

To this day I do not like the smell of forest fire or campfire smoke, nor the scent of silver willow ("buffalo brush" our dad called it). I can remember going to town in the wagon when the air was thick with smoke and the silver willow was blooming. The trip to town and back took forever it seemed. I know we got home after dark.

The George McLean family lived across the road from us. They were a large family, so there were youngsters there our age as well as some older and some younger. I thought the girls had the nicest names, Edna, Jeanette,

Helen and Gracie. One year in the spring when we all had whooping cough and then chicken pox George McLean brought our groceries from town and left them at the gate. In those days the whole household was quarantined if there was a communicable disease there. I remember the smell of sulfur afterwards when the house had to be fumigated.

Grandpa and Grandma Enger lived about a mile and a half from our place across the fields. Her mother, Mari Ostberg, lived with them for sometime. She was blind, but could really knit, and each time we visited she would want to “see” how we had grown. Dad’s youngest brother John and his wife Ida lived in Grandpa’s yard, and Uncle Martin lived between our place and Grandpa’s. Grandpa and Uncle Johnny were railroaders - Grandpa had been a pumpman before he retired and Uncle Johnny was a pipefitter. When Grandpa and his family were together they often spoke Norwegian. I was fascinated by the inflections and rhythm, but have never learned to speak the language, even though I now live in a Norwegian community.

The carefree days passed, and school became the order of the day. We lived in the Crescent Hill district, but four miles from school. Because of the distance, I did not start school until I was seven, then Walter, who was six, could go with me. Dad took us across the field to Uncle Martin’s, then we went in the buggy or cutter with Joy, and Miss Della Stone, the teacher who boarded there. We were quite often expected to walk home from Uncle Martin’s. One spring afternoon we started out bravely, but the coyotes were having a mass gathering (so it seemed to two little kids), so we didn’t go very far. Our folks had no telephone, so when we did not arrive home as expected, they came to get us.

Between our place and Uncle Martin’s there was a quite deep coulee. When the snow drifted over the edge on the north side we were afraid the sleigh would tip sometimes, but I don’t think it ever did.

Our school days at Crescent Hill were to be only one year, 1938-39. In the fall the “big” boys came to school barefooted. Walter was quite upset because he had to wear shoes and could not go in his bare feet too. Little did he know why the “big” boys did not wear shoes. On nice winter days we would go sliding down a big hill just outside the school yard on a big bobsled. Miss Stone was a good sport. In the spring the whole school spent most of a day on a nature hike, going down a draw that led to the river. The boys climbed trees in search of magpie and crow eggs, for which there was a small bounty. Another highlight of that year in school was the trip to Wainwright in June to see the King and Queen. We had never seen so many people!

Some of the names of those who attended Crescent Hill that year were: Ken and Doug Steele; Clarkie and Peggy Steele; Ralph, George, Myrtle and Reg Worthing; Inez and Ruby Santee; Leonard and Neil Fry; Joy Enger and some Hughes youngsters. There were maybe more, but their names escape me now.

We went to church at Crescent Hill, too. After a few Sundays our parents wouldn’t let Joy and I sit together, because we played with the lids on the inkwells, making too much noise. It seemed everyone went to church then.

That was a social as well as spiritual occasion.

By the end of our first year at school our dad was very ill, so we moved to a farm about a mile northeast of Irma. There we were within walking distance of school so we could attend when Dad was away for medical treatment. Quite often in the winter, Thurstons, who had a closed in cutter, would give us a ride to and from school.

School in town was different from a country school. There were only four grades in a room, but oh, so many pupils. Winnie Alexander was the teacher of the primary room with grades one to four. Ray Martin was the principal and taught grades five to eight. Alice started school that fall, so there were three Engers in the room in grades one, two and three. I had covered grades one and two the first year, as Mom had given me a start at home the year I was six. Pat started school in 1941 with Marion Longmire as her first teacher. Pat liked to have her hair curled so she learned to do her own hair, a skill Alice and I wished we had.

As a youngster I had the idea that anyone who lived in a town was “rich”. After we moved to town in the fall of 1940 following our dad’s death, I soon discovered that very few, if any, town residents were “rich”.

In the early forties some people in town still had a cow and some chickens. We were no exception, and in fact, they were a necessity. I hated looking after our old cow, Darkie, leading her to tether in or near sloughs or in the road ditches and home again. Sometimes she would pull up the tethering stake and then we would have to walk to find her. I vowed then I would never milk another cow, but have on occasion since, though not as a regular chore.

All was not work though. We seemed to be able to invent things to do. There were quite a few youngsters our age on the street, so someone would come up with good (?) ideas. The elevators and annexes with their ladders, the railroad cars sitting on the elevator track, the stockyard fences all provided endless opportunities for feats of skill and daring (maybe just plain foolishness). No one suffered any great injury except Alice who broke her right arm two days before school started.

A favorite summer jaunt was out to the tracks to the railroad trestle and the coulee by Wyand’s. We explored the muskeg; boys climbed trees to see what was in nests; we caught garter snakes and carried them up to the tracks. The braver kids walked across the trestle on the tracks. One hot summer day after the timbers of the trestle had been given a fresh coat of creosote, everyone arrived back in town well coated with the sticky, smelly stuff. I don’t remember how we got the black stains off our skin, but I’m sure some of us had sore skin for awhile. Luckily it was near the end of the summer holidays, so most of our clothes were due for the rag bag anyway. Some made it sooner than expected.

Winter found us hitching rides behind farmers’ sleighs with our sleighs or toboggans. We would ride to the cemetery or to the hill west of town, then walk back to town. The outdoor rink provided us with every bit as much enjoyment as any heated arena does for today’s youth.

There were annual tobogganing parties on the hill

southwest of town that we called "Blood and Thunder" - not inappropriately. It had many rocks on its face so there had to be lots of snow before it was safe to go down it. More than one toboggan or ski was broken on that hill.

In Junior High when Bert Wells and later Charlie DeTro were teaching we had an annual school picnic at Swailes' Lake, southeast of the cemetery. There was no road to it, so we all walked, carrying everything. One year one of the boys who was carrying a whole watermelon decided to see if it would roll down the hill. It didn't stay whole very long. He wasn't very popular for a while, even if we did gather up whatever pieces we could.

In high school Mr. I.S. Reeds was the principal and by now he was teaching the children of some of the pupils he taught when he first came to Irma. Donald Gunn was the other teacher. Grade ten always had the largest enrollment, so they were in a room by themselves, and grade eleven and twelve were in the other room. High school days passed all too quickly.

While going to high school I worked part time in the telephone office for Brenda Hewitt. It's surprising what one could buy with \$20.00 a month. I thought I was making big money.

I also curled. One year Evelyn Prior, Lucille Touchette, Ethel Murphy and I curled as a team. We entered the Wainwright Ladies' Bonspiel on a weekend that turned out to be one of the worst of the winter. Ross McFarland took us to Wainwright, and along the stretch of road west of Sunny Brae school we would shovel a way, then drive as far as possible and then shovel some more. What people will do to go curling! Once in Wainwright we took a room at the hotel and stayed the weekend. The temperature hovered in the -20 to -30 degree F. range, and it was just about that cold in the rink too. No artificial ice nor heated rinks then, but we didn't mind. We came home with a basket full of groceries for our prize.

With school days over a career had to be chosen. With limited finances and fewer choices than today something that would provide an early income was usually the final choice. The opportunity arose to supervise the correspondence lessons in Overleigh school, southwest of Kinsella. This I did for a year, then took a year of teacher training at the University of Alberta. As there was a teacher shortage, we were given a year's training for a temporary teacher's certificate. School boards offered bursaries to students to help with university fees on the condition that the student would then teach for their jurisdiction for two years. Many took advantage of this offer.

My first school was Lakeford in the Holden School Division. Most of the pupils had Viking for their address and some had Killam. The family I boarded with had Sedgewick for post office and were on the Killam telephone. Confusing? It still is!

After two and a half years at Lakeford buses were taking most of the pupils to Viking. The enrollment dwindled until only two were left after four moved away. That meant the closing of Lakeford and I moved to Willow school, north of Strome for the remainder of the term.

The next year I taught grade two in Lougheed. School didn't get started the first of September that year because the new roads, many with no gravel, were impassable from the heavy rains of the end of August.

I then did what many other country schoolteachers did - married one of the eligible young men of the district. In July, 1955 Arnold "Bud" Tetlock and I were married on one of the hottest days of the summer. We lived on a farm north of Sedgewick until he passed away suddenly in 1957. I then returned to teaching and moved into Sedgewick.

From January 1958 to June 1959 I taught grade one in Killam. I took over in the middle of the school year, a class of thirty-six. "A lot, but not enough to split into two classes" so said the superintendent. It surely was a lot of little bodies. The next year was a snap - only twenty-four for most of the year.

Farming must have had some attraction for me, as in 1959 I married another farmer, Clarence Swanson. Clarence was the third in a family of six. His father, Gilbert Swanson, farmed and drilled and repaired water wells throughout the area. His mother, Clara Backen, came to the Sedgewick area as a child in 1904. Her family was the first to spend a winter on a homestead north of Sedgewick. Clarence has lived all his life in the Sedgewick district and is still farming the land where he grew up.

After Clarence and I were married we lived in town for thirteen years before moving to a farm. It seemed I did a lot of driving helping to move machinery and taking meals, but the move to the farm did not cut down the driving, as by now we were taking youngsters to activities in town.



Back Row: Stanley, Christine, Ole. In front: Shirley & Clarence Swanson.

Our youngsters arrived in quick succession. Ole is a leap year baby, born February 29, 1960. Stanley arrived in October, 1961 and Christine in November 1962. As they grew up we did whatever parents do to keep their children active in organizations. Ole played hockey and Stanley swam. They both belonged to Cubs and Scouts. Christine belonged to Brownies and Guides and 4-H

sewing. These activities along with Sunday School, confirmation and school functions kept us going.

Now, early in 1984, things have gone full circle. As each graduated from high school, he left to make his own living. Ole has been working and apprenticing in a welding shop in Edmonton. Stanley learned some of the printing trade in Sedgewick and is now working at similar work in Edmonton. When Christine graduated jobs weren't so easily obtained, so it was a few months before she left. She is now working in a dress shop in Edmonton, so is finding some of her 4-H sewing training an asset. That leaves Clarence and me alone again.

We are living on the farm where I boarded when I taught at Lakeford, so we still have Sedgewick for our post office and Killam is our telephone exchange. We're enjoying the somewhat slower pace of farming without livestock and the related chores. That allows us time to go on short camping trips or just out for a day's jaunt about the countryside. Our yard keeps us busy and in spite of threatening to cut down on the garden, that hasn't happened yet. Maybe next year!

MARTIN AND KRISTINE SWINGEN

Martin Swingen as an adventurous young man, came from Norway to Canada on the ship Bergensfjord in 1928, travelling with the Ronjoms as far as Saskatoon where he stopped off and worked for a short time. Later he came to the Jarrow area to join Knut, Moen, and Tom Overbo who were farming there. He worked in the area helping Tom Overbo break up the prairie land for farming.

In 1938 he married Kristine Ronjom. They first lived and worked in Edmonton, later moving to Innisfail and Foremost where they worked for farmers in the area. About 1940 they came back to Edmonton, Martin finding a job at the University Hospital.



Martin and Kristina Swingen with daughter, Caroline, in 1960.

Caroline was born in 1944 prompting them to put down more permanent roots. In 1946 the Swingens bought the Belton place on Section 8-46-10-W4th. There they grew grain, raised many turkeys, ducks and chickens and milked cows as part of their living. Caroline attended school in Irma.

In the early sixties they sold their farm and moved into the teacherage at Jarrow. They purchased the general store from Carl Soneff and while Kristine minded the shop, Martin went to work as a carpenter for an elevator company working all over central Alberta. Caroline graduated from Irma High School in 1962 and attended Alberta College, taking a stenographers' course. Just before completing it, she was tragically killed in a traffic accident at Jarrow in May of 1963.

Shortly thereafter Martin and Kristine decided to return to Edmonton. They purchased a home on the south side keeping busy at various jobs until their retirement. After Grandma Ronjom broke her hip in 1965, she and Knut spent the winters with the Swingens in the city.

Martin passed away in 1980. Kristine still resides in Edmonton.

WILF SYMINGTON FAMILY

by Della Nilson

Wilfred and Ella Symington and their children, Della Mae age six and Alan age two and Mrs. Zoost (Ella's mother), moved to Irma in October, 1945, leaving their farm north of Mannville. Wilf came to join his brother-in-law, Bert Wells, who had resigned from teaching in Irma, to start what was known as Central Garage. It was just a small shop to begin with, but not too small for Bert to fix whatever was brought in to him, be it a radio, an engine or a two ton truck.

Soon, an addition, with the help of Mr. Saunders and sons and Jim Craig as carpenters, was added to make Central Garage a building to be proud of in Irma. Equipment was bought and the franchise with Imperial Oil products was obtained. Long hours of work and the turning away of no job, or anyone, made for a good business for many years for Wilf.

The first school bus in the Wainwright Division was bought in 1946 and operated by Bert and Wilf, which was a real treat for the Irma children. Shortly, a fleet of school busses graced this corporation with some of the first drivers being Ed Sharkey, Fred Clumstad, Wilf, not to be outdone by Ella (Wilf's wife), driving the "singing van" bus south of town.

Bert left Irma in 1947 to go back teaching, first in Camrose and then to Calgary Aberhart Technical School. He passed away in June, 1969.

Oliver machinery and General Motors with Pontiac, Buick and G.M.C. trucks was the next addition to Central Garage. Haakon Larson came in to be Wilf's new partner after Bert left.

Wilf did his part in the community while he was on the job too. He was on council with Verne Sampson and Cliff Jones and saw gas, water and the hotel come into being in Irma after many times of voting and controversy on these matters. He joined Gratton View Masons,

played on Irma's hockey team and was a real supporter of the parade at Irma Days.

Ella boarded teachers and students all their time in Irma - the first being the former Vera Simmermon and Lucille Touchette, etc. She was president of the first W.A. formed in Irma and led the Jr. C.G.I.T. group.

Della Mae and Alan took their schooling in Irma and were involved in sports, Explorers, Sea Cadets etc. - not to mention the delivering of that Journal paper for three years (come rain or snowbanks two and one-half feet deep).



Wilf's school bus.

Mrs. Zoost did her part baby-sitting her grandchildren, and for a time the Gunn and Glasgow children. As well she was active in the W.I. and busy every spare minute with her crochet hook.

What a sad sight for the Symington's to come home from a hockey game at Viking and see Central Garage going up in smoke! However, Central Garage was rebuilt and put back into business. Ella tells of walking downtown from their west end home to drive school bus and four farmers with demonstrator cars she had driven, went sailing by her, drivers waving of course. The result - she was still walking.

Then in 1957 Erling Larson and his brother-in-law, Morris Cooper, bought Central Garage. The long hours of being open was just too much for Wilf. The Symingtons and Mrs. Zoost left Irma in June, 1957 after spending many happy, busy years there. Della Mae entered McTavish College in Edmonton, worked for a lawyer before coming back to Irma as Mrs. Erling Nilson, to live south of town. Alan went on to high school at Victoria Composite, then on to the States on a sports scholarship and started teaching. From there to teaching and being in administration at N.A.I.T. and now he has his own business in Edmonton, known as the "Insurance Store."

Landis Lee was the late addition to the Symington family on December 17th, 1957. She proved to be a real joy as the rest of the children had left the nest by now. She went on to become a Business Ed high school teacher, married and moved to Calgary.

Gram Zoost passed away September, 1974 and there surely was a new star shining in the heavens after that night.



Wilf's 65th Birthday party in Calgary in Oct. 1982. Left to Right: Allan, Wilf, Landis, Della and Ella.

Wilf has worked for Western G.M.C. since he left Irma, making it thirty years of selling G.M. parts and products. Wilf's health is not up to par but he and Ella still enjoy retirement years at their home in Edmonton - especially getting pleasure from their children, their grandchildren, Darryl, Brad and Barb, Dale, Vicky Ann, Brent and now a new great-granddaughter Jana Leah.

SAM SZOKE

Sam and Rose migrated to Canada from Cleveland, Ohio in the fall of 1911. Prior to leaving the States Sam worked in a wire factory while Rose worked in a cigar factory. At that time they had two children Helen, and Paul. George and Margaret were born in Canada.



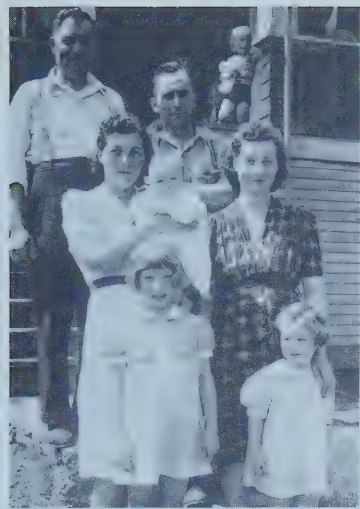
Paul Szoke

The Szokes homesteaded in the Lewisville district south of Irma about two miles west of Wainwright Buffalo Park gate. They lived in a log house. When the house was partially built it started to rain. All their belongings had to be kept under the finished part of the roof for days. Those were the days when they lived on rabbits, prairie chickens, wild berries and mushrooms.

Sam worked on the Grand Trunk bridge. Their only

TARGETT FAMILY MEMORIES OF IRMA

by Bryon Targett



*Sam Szoke, Helen Reber
and Margaret Setter.*

transportation was a team and wagon or on foot. Rose took the cream to town with team and buggy. The neighbors exchanged machinery as no one had enough money to buy a full line of equipment.

They weren't able to attend church as the closest one was fifteen miles away. However, they did go to Sunday School at a neighbor's, Mrs. Gower. She gave them pretty cards each time they came. They really treasured these.

Doctors and hospitals were few and far away. Rose acted as midwife for several settlers' wives. Their closest neighbors were Hi Reber, Bill Hutchison, Louis Hanson, Frank Hutchison, Jack Gadd and Jasper Ward.

The children attended Lewisville school. Rose Szoke passed away in 1943, Sam in 1956.

Helen married Lewis Reber, they had three children Phoebe, Florence and Raymond. Paul married Elsie Stimson of Irma. They had three daughters. Paul later married Edith Bills of Detroit and had two sons. Paul passed away in 1980. Margaret married Otto Setter of Czar. Margaret passed away in Calgary in 1981. George married Olive Burrows of Hardisty and ran a meat market there for years, having taken over from his father. George passed away in 1970.



*Rose Szoke with Margaret
Setter, Doreen and
Marlene Setter.*

When I look back on my teenage days in Irma, I remember a simple time full of happiness. I think it was the time I learned to play and work hard while accepting responsibility - characteristics that have been valuable to me in later life.

My father, Harold Targett, a C.N.R. station agent, transferred to Irma in 1946. Both my parents were pleased to get back to an area that had trees, something they had missed since moving from England in 1911. At the time of the transfer I was attending school in Calgary and my first visit to Irma was during the Christmas holidays. My initiation into Irma life began that Christmas vacation. Very shortly after arriving home I was invited to the skating rink for a hockey game. Upon arriving at the rink I found half a dozen boys about my age waiting, not to play hockey, but to see if I could skate. None of them had brought their own skates. For me, this was a fortunate introduction because I liked to skate and enjoyed playing hockey, and once I had made my debut and measured up, we had a good association. Some of the fellows at the rink that day were Elwood Peterson, Malcolm Frickleton and the Lovig boys.

Sports were always big in Irma and I remember many pleasant hours spent playing ball and hockey. Hockey was perhaps the most popular sport. If my memory serves me correctly, Irma won the Gas Line Hockey League trophy fifteen years in a row. Some of the players I remember playing with were Bill Inkin, Brent MacNab, Stuart Fenton, Jimmy Guiltner, Albert Glasgow, Carl Soneff, Wilf Symington and Cliff Jones. The team had a lot of talent and made easy work of Viking, Tofield and Bruce. We were also perennial winners of the Vermilion Hockey Tournament, usually beating out Myrnam. I remember one Monday morning about two a.m. driving home after winning the tournament with Bill Inkin, Jimmy Guiltner and a couple of other players, when we slid off the icy road into the ditch near Mannville. We were all tired and not too interested in digging the car out. Luckily for us we were near a farmhouse. Not wanting to waken the farmer, we proceeded to the barn, harnessed his team, and used the horses to pull us out. We returned the horses to the barn but left them harnessed. I've often wondered what the farmer thought when he went out the next morning to harness his team! The Irma boys were pretty fair hockey players and when Wainwright entered the Eastern Alberta Hockey League in 1949 with the newly formed Commandos, players from Irma and Edmonton were invited to play. Carl Soneff, Bill Inkin, Albert Glasgow, Jimmy Guiltner and myself spent the winter of 1949-50 driving back and forth playing with the Commandos. It was worth the effort as we won the Eastern Alberta Hockey League Championship. I think they paid us gas, and gave us a steak dinner. Sometimes we were able to get a hotel room but usually I had to be back in Irma for school the next day so had to miss that luxury. In addition to the senior team, Irma had a strong high school team. The team played against the other high schools on the gas line and were

usually successful.

Softball was another big activity around the district. The stores closed on Wednesday afternoon and sports days took over. The softball team from Irma held its own against teams from Chauvin, Edgerton, Hardisty, Mannville as well as Viking and Tofield. In addition to the bigger towns, sports days were held at all the rural schoolhouses and many excellent tournaments took place at Albert, Strawberry Plains, Passchendale and many of the other schools around Irma. I also remember Irma as my initiation to cross-country skiing and pool. I was never really interested in billiards or pool but it was always a challenge to play a game or two when we were under age. Harold Barber, the proprietor, let us play occasionally but every once in awhile we found ourselves out on the sidewalk. Skiing was another matter. Malcolm Frickleton and I ran a trapline south of the town. It ran about eight to ten miles and part of it was on the coulee hill we called "Blood and Thunder". In comparison to the Rockies which I skied after I left Irma, it was pretty tame, but in those days we thought it was pretty steep. "Red" as Malcolm was called, and I used to ski out after school two or three times a week. Sometimes Walt Enger would join us. We never caught that many weasels but it was good fun and did provide some spending money. For many years after I had quit trapping I would receive every fall the Hudson Bay Company's Trapper's Manual, which brought back many memories. The fall in Irma was the time for hunting. Once the leaves started to drop we would get the shotguns out and go out after the birds. Red and I would take turns borrowing our fathers' cars and go after the grouse. My father's car was a 1949 Austin A-90 with a sun roof. It was ideal to use to shoot grouse. We would shoot until we had a gunnysack full of birds and then go home and clean them. Many times we substituted the twenty-two for the shotguns so that we wouldn't get buckshot throughout the birds. If we weren't cruising the roads we would take up a field or slough shoot both before and after school. Many times we just got to school in time to put the guns in the cloakroom and run into class still in our hunting gear. It was fortunate for us that Donald Gunn and Isaac Reeds were understanding.

School in Irma was different from Calgary. The high school, the first rural high school in Alberta, was a two-room school and included students from grades ten to twelve. Isaac Reeds was the principal who set a high standard and expected everyone to work hard. Of course he had the support of our parents and trouble at school meant trouble at home. Donald Gunn was the second teacher. He had a good understanding of human nature and after school he would join us all for a Coke or a coffee at Pond's Cafe. This afternoon luxury was enjoyed by all who didn't have to rush home to do the chores. Some of the highlights of my four years at Irma High School included a drama production - the name of which I can't recall - the cast included Donna Fay Hockett, June Frickleton, Red Frickleton, Walter Enger and several others as well as myself. We rehearsed many weeks and then initiated the new auditorium with the play. The old school by this time had been replaced by a new two-storey building. We felt we were good and even

stretched out production to include a presentation at Kinsella. The climax of the school year, however, came with the graduation ball. The students from the Viking High School would join us for our celebration, and then we would go back and join them for theirs. It was a time of great festivity with the girls in their new dresses and the boys in suits. We felt very sophisticated. Schooling in Irma was good for me and I did well and was able to enter university when the time came. School was not all work. I recall one noon hour when we sent one of the boys down the cold air return. It ran the length of the school. Firecrackers were tied to a string every four feet and the string was lit just before classes resumed and the afternoon was spent with the interruption of firecrackers going off. Because they were going off in the cold air duct, it certainly made a loud noise. Whenever I think of school I also think of my bike. I had a large bike with a large sprocket and it made getting around town very easy. Usually I had Walter Enger riding double and we went everywhere with the bike. Some of the kids that were at school at that time - besides the ones I have mentioned were Marnie Kennedy, Evelyn Prior, Dixie Rohrer, Jeanine Archibald, Lillian Masson, Irene Larson, Aletha Hill, Lorna Archibald, Ralph Worthing, Jack MacKay, Melvin Dawson, Hugh Tomlinson, Don Simmermon, Alan Darkes, Alan Rae, Josephine Saville, Betty Prior, Evelyn Oracheski, Norma King, and several others whose names I can't recall.



Irma Station - note the cream cans.

My teenage days in Irma were very much involved with the railroad since my father was the agent. I would help unload the express that came daily from both the East and West, and then help Mr. Guiltner, or "Guilt" as he was called, load his dray for delivery to the stores in town. Most of the town kids took a turn at helping Guilt, the reward being a chance to drive his horses. In addition to unloading the express from the passenger train, a weekly wayfreight came from Edmonton and brought the heavier items. I often helped unload this as well. Another task I had was helping keep the cream cans neat and tidy along the edge of the station. Most of the cream was shipped to Viking in five-gallon cans and some also went to Edgerton. It was an important source of cash for the farmers and a lot of cream was shipped. Irma of course was located on the CNR mainline and the tran-

scout trains came through in the early morning hours, so people from Hardisty, Mannville as well as the surrounding district caught the train in Irma. My father had to meet the train so many people spent their time waiting for the transcontinentals in our living room rather than waiting in the rather stark waiting room. This was the beginning of the end for the steam engine and the railroads were moving into a more modern era.

Not only did I help around the station, but I also had a variety of jobs. I think I learned to work hard and accept responsibility in Irma. I spent several years working part time in the locker plant, owned by Bob Kirkman, and Art MacLure. They taught me how to cut meat and introduced me to the retail sales field. Bob had the first new style 1949 Meteor in town and was it ever a car! It really could go - skidding over the gravel roads at speeds up to ninety miles an hour, and we all loved it. For one summer, I worked with Carl Soneff, Sr. on the section crew and one of our jobs was to cut the weeds along the track. I'm sure I cut every weed from Jarrow to Fabyan that summer. It was a hot, hard job that I still recall with a shudder. Stooking and working for a threshing crew were other activities that I got involved in. For two falls I worked for Cliff Smallwood, threshing west of town on his threshing crew. We threshed for many of the farmers. I think we ran for about a month. I drove a team and recall getting up early in the morning, harnessing the team, heading out to the fields and hoping that the crop would be too wet to start so that we could catch a little more shuteye snuggled among the bundles. The work was hard but we ate well and enjoyed it. After a few days we got into shape and were ready to work all day and dance all night. 1950, my last fall in Irma, I got my stake for the big city by stooking for several farmers. It was a wet fall and anyone crazy enough to stook could easily get a job and make good money. It was a wet, miserable job but the opportunity was what I needed so I jumped at the chance.

Social activities in Irma generally fell into a pattern. Friday night was the big night. The evening started off with a movie at Keifer's Hall. It was usually a stag affair - we would meet the girls later. After the movie everyone would go to the cafe for coffee and pie and then it was off to one of the rural schoolhouses for a dance. The dance would usually warm up around midnight. It was a family affair with everyone taking part. Babies would be put to sleep on the desks and people of all ages would dance to the fiddle, sax and piano. A local orchestra usually provided the music and many of the musicians were pretty good. I remember Gar Coultman, along with Irene Larson and Sheila Coultman as well as two or three others making good music. Most of us would have a bottle of rye or gin stashed under the seat in the car and periodically a trip was necessary to have two or three fingers. It was important that no one drank more than his share and we always went out together. Once the dance started, couples would start to get together throughout the evening. Many would slip outside for a short tête-à-tête. The dance usually continued as long as people wanted to dance. I remember on many occasions stopping at one of the farmhouses about 6:30 am. for breakfast on the way home. We would usually arrive in

town just in time to change and go to work. It certainly would be nice to still have the staying power of those days.

Church was an important part of our family life. There weren't too many Anglicans in Irma but whenever church was held we went. Usually the minister came from Wainwright and we were joined by the Thurstons as well as several other families. My mother played the organ and Dad acted as a Church Warden. On other Sundays we attended the United Church. The United Church had a minister called Rev. Inglis and held regular service. I also belonged to the Trail Rangers, a boys group of the United Church.

I hope that my ramblings will stir a few memories for some of the readers. Since leaving Irma I obtained my Bachelor of Education degree and my Master's of Education degree and have been with the Calgary Board of Education for twenty-nine years, currently as Principal of Van Horne Secondary School. I am also heavily involved in the Kananaskis County Development and serve as the volunteer chairman of the Citizens' Advisory Committee. I was married to Elaine Sangster in 1955 and we have three grown children, Susan, Elizabeth and David. Life has been enjoyable for me and I look back fondly on my days in Irma.

MR. ROBERT (JACK) JOHN TATE

written by Ethel (Tate) Nagy

Mr. Robert John (Jack) Tate was born in Waldemar, Ontario, January 9th, 1881 - came West in 1906 and settled in Irma in 1908. He lived with Ed McDowell for a short time on a homestead just west of Irma. Ed McDowell and Jack Tate had the first Massey-Harris Agency in Irma in a building on Main Street where the Co-op store now stands. In 1912 Jack Tate was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the Battle River Municipality No. 423 and remained at this job until his death January 22, 1932.

He was a member of the I.O.O.F. Lodge and active in the church and other community work.

On July 16, 1918 he married Dora L. Flewelling and they had three daughters - Ethel, Margaret and Jacqueline, all educated in Irma Schools.

Jack Tate's wife - Dora Louisa Flewelling (Tate) was born near Fergus, Ontario December 19, 1888 and came West in June 1913. She settled in Irma November 1914. She was a clerk at the Irma Co-op store that was operated by Mr. H.W. Love. She boarded with the Loves. She was paid \$10.00 a week salary and paid \$4.00 for board. Dora had been trained in the millinery business in Ontario and loved hats. She was a small woman when she went to Irma - weighing less than 100 lbs. She said when she first went to Irma her hat brim was so large that she had to tilt her head to go through the Post Office door. She was honored with the first Bridal Shower in Irma. Jack and Dora built the house that Adelaide Dootson now lives in in 1928. Dora lived in the house until May 1966. Dora was a member of the Rebekah Lodge and although she was not a member of many organizations she always baked for special events and her car was always available for transporting children to any community event.



Mrs. Flewelling, Mrs. Tate, Mr. R.J. Tate in Irma 1919.

FIRST BRIDAL SHOWER IN IRMA JULY 3/1918

On the evening of July 3rd a pleasing event took place at the home of Mrs. W.B. Peterson in honor of Miss Dora Flewelling on her approaching marriage to Mr. R.J. Tate. Under the organization of Mesdames Peterson, Clute and Patterson the ladies of Irma presented the bride to be with a miscellaneous shower. After receiving the gifts Miss Dora thanked the donors in a suitable speech. Refreshments were then served and the remainder of the evening pleasantly spent.

The following ladies contributed to the shower: Mesdames W. Milburn, G. Kennedy, E.T. McDowell, W. Barber, Carpenter, E.J. Armstrong, G. Armstrong, J.W. Wyatt, Stewart, B. Stewart, H.W. Love, B.J. Hardy, C. Latner, P. Jones, M.M. Cook, A. Howarth, J. Dower, C. Bassett, H. Patterson, W.B. Peterson, C.A. Tripp, W. Lyle, H. Clute, A.A. Dickson, O. Eaton, C.G. Hockin, C. Christensen, F.W. Watkinson, A.D. Schaffner, R.A. Pennock, C.A. Toll, J.W. Stuart (Wainwright), the Misses Milburn, MacGregor, Tillipough, Cumming, Edmonds, Saunders, Helen McDowell, Ethel Milburn and Master Lorne Milburn.

Several of the young ladies present expressed their willingness to follow the good example set by Miss Dora Flewelling. Hurry up boys.



1924: Mrs. M.A. Flewelling, Margaret Tate, Alice Flewelling, Jack Tate, Jacqueline Tate, Dora Tate and Ethel Tate.

ALBERT TAYLOR FAMILY

by Winnifred (Taylor) Alexander

Albert and Harriet Taylor were both born in the Blackstock district in Ontario. Albert came to Edmonton in 1905 after homesteading in South Dakota. In Edmonton he and a partner established the Taylor and Spinks Livery and Sales Stable carriages and harness. In 1907 he journeyed back to Ontario where he married Harriet McLaughlin on December 19th. In January he and his wife came back to Edmonton where they resided for several years. Their eldest son, George Anson, was born in Edmonton. Due to a breakdown in Albert's health, the family moved to Victoria, B.C. Albert's health improved and he went into the real estate business out there. While in Victoria, Winnifred and Gerald were born. Albert always had a love of the land so in 1916 he moved his family to a farm fourteen miles out of Lacombe where he raised purebred shorthorn cattle.



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Taylor and Mrs. Taylor's father, George McLaughlin.

John Albert (Jack) was born in Lacombe. There was no school here for the children and as George was now of school age Harriet taught him at home for four years. With this lack of educational facilities, and the other children coming up to school age, other arrangements had to be made so the family moved into Edmonton once again. Allan was born in Edmonton.

The N. 1/2 12-46-8-W4th had been purchased some years before in the Roseberry district and Albert now kept his family in Edmonton and travelled back and forth to this farm for several years and the family came down and spent the summer holidays on the farm. In 1922 the family moved into Wainwright and Albert drove back and forth to the farm. After three years the family moved out to the farm in the Roseberry district and the children went to Roseberry school. The house was a twelve by twenty shack-roofed structure. It was shingled and stained brown. The inside was not finished - just two by fours lining the inside walls. In the winter frost came into the walls. Two new rooms were later added. Through the years a new house was often planned but this did not take place due to the struggle to break land and get

established. The new home was not built until after Albert's death. Harriet and her two sons, Jack and Allan, built the house that now stands on the original farm owned by Jack and his wife, Nora and family who live there. During the years Albert served as a member of the school board and Harriet was secretary. Through the years more land was purchased and the farm was expanded.

Before we settled permanently on the farm we used to come down from Edmonton in the summer for the holidays and go back in the fall. These trips took a lot of preparation but the chief worry was whether the car would start. Dad had a 1913 Tudhope touring car. If we wanted to go anywhere and the car would start we went, if it didn't, we stayed at home. On the day we were to go my dad stood in front of the car and cranked for all he was worth. We were lucky, suddenly the engine roared and dad grabbed the crank out and ran for the front seat to keep it going. We were off, driving down White Avenue. Soon we were out of the city as the streets didn't extend very far at that time. Now we were onto the prairie trails, following along around the bluffs, circling the sloughs. When trails intersected we had to decide which was the right trail to take. There were no roads, just the trails and it was very easy to get lost. Sometime in the early afternoon we pulled over into the shade of a poplar bluff and stopped for a picnic. We ate raspberry jam sandwiches and lemonade while we were surrounded by golden buffalo beans and tiger lillies. We again climbed back into the car laden with the bouquets of flowers we had picked. We were always wondering if we were on the right trail but towards evening we arrived in the little town of Holden. As it took so long to get anywhere in those days Dad decided we had gone far enough and we stayed in the Holden hotel overnight. The next morning the car was cranked up again and we were off to complete our journey to the farm. On in the afternoon we chugged into the village of Irma. We still had about twelve miles to go so driving along we chose what we thought was the trail leading in the right direction. We children were enchanted by the many wild flowers and the birds, there seemed to be millions. We finally, after many twists and turns, arrived at our destination, the farm. We piled out of the car and in our excitement were soon running around with our shoes and stockings off in the long uncut grass surrounding the shack-roofed house that was to be our home for the summer. I don't remember meeting anyone else on the whole way from Edmonton down.

When I think back I am sure this first summer on the farm wasn't much of a holiday for my mother. What with five children, one only a baby, no conveniences as we know them today, water to be carried in and out, wood to be chopped, lamps to be filled and cleaned, together with the washing and cooking, I can't see how she had much of a holiday. However as a child of seven it meant little to me and everything was adventure and fun and freedom from the restraints of the city. We found many exciting things to do. We ran through the bluffs, built houses of sticks, picked the many wild flowers and unknown to our parents jumped off the roof of the barn into a pile of straw. We swam in the tree-surrounded

sloughs until a rash we developed turned out to be an "itch" from the water and we had to quit. One of my best memories of that summer was of a little girl, Edith Ulick, who rode into our yard one morning on her pony "Birdie". She gave us all rides on the pony. After that she came quite often and we all learned to ride on her horse. Edith and I were friends for many years. Another memory of that summer was of a drive we took one day and ended up at the home of George Younker. These friendly people made us very welcome and when we left they gave us a kitten. That kitten provided a great deal of amusement for us all summer and when we returned to Edmonton in the fall he went along riding in an egg crate, to become a city cat until his nine lives ran out. One other memory of that summer was of a very violent thunderstorm. The lightning lit up the whole sky and the thunder exploded in loud cracks. Then the wind started blowing so hard that my father thought the house would tip over. We gathered up blankets and headed out through the pouring rain to a granary that was half full of wheat. Dad thought the weight of the grain would keep the building from blowing away and we would be safer there. I remember my mother telling us that we were safe and that the storm wouldn't hurt us, but those terrible peals of thunder weren't very reassuring. We must have finally fallen asleep for we were awakened the next morning to go back to the house. It was a beautiful morning, the sun was shining and to our delight there were puddles all over the yard for us to run through.

Dad finally decided to move us to the farm to live permanently. We went to Roseberry School. All the grades were taught by one teacher, a Miss Luella Hamilton. On the walls of the school were two pictures, one of King George V and one of Queen Mary. The school was heated by a potbellied stove. In the winter it was so cold in the mornings that we moved our desks up beside the stove so we roasted on one side and froze on the other. The children came to school by horseback, buggy and in one case on a stoneboat pulled by one horse. In the busy season, when all the horses were needed to work on the farms, the children walked. These trips to school every day were the best part of the day. We explored every bird's nest, waded our horses through every slough and on the way home roamed all over the open sections. When I look back we learned a great deal about nature, we just absorbed it. There was little organized sport at school but we did play baseball. In the winter we skated on the slough in front of the school. Some of us were lucky enough to buy some skis at six dollars a pair from Eaton's catalogue. These were taken to school and recess was spent skiing down a hill. At Christmas a concert was put on by the teacher and pupils and the whole community turned out for this happy occasion. We had a piano and my father used to load it up and take it in a sleigh down to the school a few weeks before Christmas so the teacher could play it for the songs. There was a tree and gifts and candy for everyone, followed by lunch and sometimes a dance. It was the big event of the year and a teacher was judged not so much on her teaching but on what kind of a concert she could put on. One of the fathers acted as Santa Claus and excitement was high as he ho-hoed into the school.

Miss Hamilton must have had memories of that year at Roseberry. For a while she boarded at Anderson's about three miles from the school. She came to school with the children of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Steele, Eric and Billy who were about seven and eight years of age. They drove a horse and buggy. About half a mile from the school there was a deep slough that went all the way across the road. They had to drive around this slough. One morning when all we children had arrived at school - no teacher arrived. We waited awhile but when it was well past nine o'clock and still no teacher or Steele boys we all decided to walk down the road to see if we could find them. Winding around the bluff just in front of the slough to our horror we saw the buggy in the middle of the slough and the horse lying down in the water. The water was right up into the buggy. In the buggy sat our teacher and the Steele boys. They had driven, full of little boys' adventure and much against the warnings of the teacher, right into the slough hoping to go right across. However the horse had objected when he got to the deep water in the middle and simply laid down and refused to get up. The water was too deep for them to wade out and poor Miss Hamilton did not know what to do. We held a consultation and yelled out to them that we would go for help. We streamed back down the road and headed for Charlie Savard's. Just then we saw him working out in the middle of a field. He proved to be the hero of the day. He unhitched his horses and riding one, came leading the others, all still with their harness on, down the road to the slough. Riding the horse and leaving the others near the slough, he rode right into the water and managed to get the distraught Miss Hamilton onto the horse with him and brought her safely back to dry land. The two little culprits were still in the buggy. He then rode back into the water and grabbing the drenched horse by the bridle managed to persuade him to stand up and he led buggy, horse and boys out of the slough. We all made our way back to the school. Wouldn't you know it; the school inspector was there, standing in the yard in front of the school, looking at his watch. However he was a very nice man and after hearing of the teacher's adventure he said he would come back another day. We all went into the school and Miss Hamilton told us that she thought it would be a good day to clean the school yard which suited us all just fine. We all wondered why the inspector had such a funny smile on his face when he left.

Another memory of my early years at Roseberry was the year Miss Helen Deeton came to teach. She boarded at the Ben Oldham farm. She was just out of Normal School so wasn't much older than some of her pupils. She started a Glee Club in the district for the young people. We all got together once a week just to sing. It was lots of fun. We learned all the old songs. She was musical and played the piano for us. Occasionally we put on a musical concert. It did much to relieve some of the long winter evenings. In the spring she entered the school in the Wainwright Musical Festival. We all learned songs and choruses and she gave us a real love of music which I think stayed with us for the rest of our lives. I have many other fond memories of Roseberry school. When in the early days on the prairies, isolated as we were, I think we owed a great deal to these teachers who were usually very

young, who had quite often come from the cities into a quite different and harder environment but bravely adjusted to their surroundings. They brought with them many things that enriched our lives and left many lasting impressions on us that affected us for the rest of our days.



Mrs. Albert Taylor and family, Jack, George, Gerald, Winnie, and Allan.

The need for a piano was evident. There was an old organ in the school. It was still used for church services but when someone played it someone else had to pump it. Although my dad was still taking our piano back and forth for Christmas concerts everyone agreed it would be much better if we had a piano in the school. The problem was "How to raise the money to buy one!" It was decided to raffle the old organ to help raise money. The police were contacted to see what the legal angle was. We were told that it could be done if we sold something along with the tickets. An order was written out to "Eaton's" for dozens of red pencils with eraser tips. Tickets were prepared by hand and we were in business. All the children in the district were given tickets to sell. I remember riding my horse for miles on Saturdays, right over as far as Plaxtol district to sell tickets and each buyer was faithfully given a pencil. All the other children were doing the same. There was a prize for the one who sold the most. I don't remember who won it or who won the organ but we had what we thought was a lot of money to put towards the piano. This was added to by holding a box social. This event was very exciting as there was great competition as to who would have the best decorated box. These boxes were filled with all kinds of goodies and were auctioned off to the men. You ate supper with the man who bought your box. If it was known that a certain young man was bidding on his girl friend's box the other young men would bid him up. The teacher's box was also run up if it became known that a certain box might be hers. This all helped in the money taken in for the piano fund. Finally we had enough money collected from these and other undertakings to buy the piano and a delegation was appointed to go to Edmonton and pick one out. The piano was bought and duly installed in the school.

In those days before refrigeration there was no way to keep fresh meat for any length of time in the summer. To

provide the community with fresh meat a Beef Ring was established. Each week a farmer would donate a well fed calf to be butchered and the meat would be distributed to all the families taking part. One summer we children had a pet calf named Clover. She was very fat and slick and we all spent a great deal of time playing with her. We thought she was the prettiest calf ever and she followed us around like a dog. We even made a harness for her and she pulled us in a cart. Then one day in late summer the impossible happened. It was our turn to donate a calf to the beef ring. Our father told us that Clover was to go. We had no inkling that this was to be Clover's fate and we were just sick. However there was nothing to do about it and Clover went away. We refused to eat any meat the next week and we were told never to make a pet of a calf again. There was another story I remember. Mr. Lewis was the man who delivered meat with his team and wagon. One day we heard that Mr. Lewis had died. The news went all around the neighborhood and we were all feeling very badly. Then a few days later into the yard drove Mr. Lewis just as alive as ever. My father, not knowing what to say, just asked "Have you been sick Mr. Lewis?" "Sick", he replied, "Don't you know I'm dead?" He had heard the story too. Where it started we never knew.

Albert passed away in 1936 and Harriet lived until 1960.

JOHN (JACK) ALBERT TAYLOR FAMILY

by Nora Taylor

Jack grew up on the N.E. 12-46-8-W4th. on his parents' farm. When his father died in 1936 Jack and his brother Allan started farming together. They gradually sold off the livestock and concentrated more on grain farming. Tractors and combines replaced the horses, binders and threshing machines.

In 1941 they finally managed to get a house built on the basement which had been dug in 1930. Allan married Clara Enger that year on Oct. 11 and they lived with Jack and his mother for about a year when they moved to the "Batchelor" farm. In 1945 they bought and moved to the "Jim Thompson" farm about six miles north. They farmed independently from then on.

I, Nora Sharnie Funk, came to the Strawberry Plains District, Irma, Alta. in July 1946 with intentions of ranching with my parents, Pete and Gertie Funk, sister Betty and brother Larry. However, teachers seemed in short supply and I was persuaded to teach at Roseberry School.

During the fall and winter I boarded at Ted Dallows' awhile and for a few months at Mrs. Rome's, walking to and from school every day. After Easter I stayed with my parents and rode horseback every day. My dad had several saddle horses so I could change off as he thought it was too much for one horse. Every morning I tied a hanky around my wrist over my watch so it would not stop when it got cold. There was no clock at school and needless to say if my watch stopped lessons might not always start at the correct time. I met Jack at a social function at Roseberry School.

In August 1947, a hailstorm harvested Jack's crop in a

few short hours. He always tells me that he decided he may as well do something so we were married on October 25, 1947 at my parents' home by Rev. Inglis.

Jack and I farmed and we had a hired man from spring to fall as well. We did not own a truck at that time so someone else hauled our grain which was mostly wheat. Jack built one of the first portable augers around here. He got the pipe and screw from Buffalo Sheet Metal in Winnipeg and it was driven by one of the first type lightweight air-cooled motors.

Playing "500" was all the rage then and we spent many entertaining evenings with our neighbors and friends, always ending up with a tasty lunch.

There were lots of schoolhouse dances to attend. Mr. and Mrs. Martin Enger and Allan Taylor, Coultman's Orchestra or the Eybens would provide the music. I remember one evening after a heavy rain Jack and I picked up Norman and Eleanor Willerton and their two children, Bruce and Norma, to attend one of those dances. Our car, a 1946 Mercury Coupe, was not very big and so Bruce and Norma were curled up on the ledge behind the seat while the four adults were wedged in the seat. I don't really know how Jack managed to keep the car on the road as it was then a very muddy ungravelled one.

In winter the snow created a problem again. We had a very bad blizzard in March 1951 and all the roads were blocked. The party-line telephones were busy and for two days the men from the correction line on south, namely, Seth Oldham, Bill Whiteley, Howard Johnson, Allan Taylor, Norman Willerton, Chris Atkinson and Jack battled away with tractors, snowploughs and shovels to get a path cleared to the highway by road or field. They said it was because I was expecting a baby and may need to get to hospital----bless their hearts. Guess who went to town.

As our family grew up and became of school age the rural school here was closed and Sherrilee travelled to Irma by bus. One day we picked her up after school to visit my parents. On the way home that day the bus collided with a car driven by Kate Younker who was teaching at Passchendale School so Sherrilee missed that accident. Kate, however, received a broken hip.

Another day the bus travelled north from Dootsons and coming down a hill it got out of control and upset on to a frozen slough. Luckily no one was seriously hurt.

One very stormy, snowy afternoon the phone rang (the connection was exceptionally poor,) the bus driver reported that the buses could not travel and the children would be looked after, so I understood. About four o'clock I became quite anxious but by then the long distance phones did not work at all. After a knock at the door Mr. Symington and Colin DesJardine stumbled in, both very tired. They understood we were expecting our children and had taken Helen Van Hytsma, Norma Willerton and Sherrilee by car from Archie Cooks south to Highway 14 and down our road but were stuck about one-half mile from here. The engine was packed with snow and would not run. Jack and "Sy" as Mr. Symington was called, took our car and drove back to get the girls but could not get to the other car so they walked. The girls were frozen and frightened. Meanwhile, I

telephoned Willertons and Bruce brought a tractor, no cab or heater, got Jack's car turned around and towed them home. What a relief for all! Sy and Colin were going to stay all night but a rescue party was sent out to find them. It was the Irma Gas Co. boys with a closed in snowmobile. After some food and getting warm they started back to Irma. I remember Harold Wright walking beside the snowmobile when they left and rubbing the windshield with a bag of salt so the driver could see out. Next day Sy's car was completely covered with snow.

When Margery started school we were transferred to the Wainwright School. For us the bus route was much better and we were also on the Wainwright Phone.

During those early years Jack worked frequently at his hobby as radio technician. Many people, from far and wide, would bring their radios to be repaired. Jack would do so and probably charge them one dollar; just enough to pay for the parts. Later on he also repaired T.V.'s.

We had the only T.V. set around here at the time. When Grey Cup Game day arrived so did our friends. Our living room was not very large and it was mostly the men who could watch. Sometimes T.V. reception was not too clear. The ladies and children visited in the kitchen, occasionally checking on the score. Supper was a sort of pot luck affair, not always at our place.

The original house, built in 1941, has been rebuilt several times. First Bill and Jack Veer closed in the verandah. By 1962 the house was pretty crowded with our family of six so we decided to enlarge it by sixteen feet across the east side. This allowed us to get extra storage space and a walk-in freezer in the basement, a larger living room, much needed office and sewing area on the main floor and three more bedrooms upstairs. The west side had six feet added on to the porch with a south entry. To begin with this house had no furnace, electricity or plumbing but Jack was pretty handy and a few years later installed a coal and wood furnace. Electrical stuff was his hobby so soon he had a row of glass batteries in the basement and a thirty-two volt generator to produce electricity. We could use lights, vacuum cleaner, toaster, washing machine and an iron. In 1948 Jack decided to put in plumbing. All fixtures and pipe were hard to procure at that time but finally before Christmas it was

all done. What a wonderful convenience! Our children never knew what living without plumbing was like and I benefitted greatly from the luxury. Even Wainwright did not have plumbing then.

In the summer of 1963 we were busy. We built five hopped cement bins with a capacity of each being 9000 bus. of grain. Jim Strang and a good crew worked



The grain-handling system at the J.A. Taylor farm.

deligently every day putting up rings of cement until all five bins were finished. Every day my parents came out to help. The kitchen was busy with cooking and baking to feed everyone. There was some play also as George Bacon, a happy, fun-loving guy could always be relied on to provoke a laugh. Our second son, Marvin, was about six years old and when George teased him he retaliated by spraying the men with the water hose. That year August 28, our youngest daughter, Bonnie Ellen, was born.

A few years later we thought that a cabin at the lake was not too handy for our family of seven children so we had a swimming pool built. It has provided much entertainment for our family and also for the neighbors. For several years our daughter, Margery, taught swimming to many children and some adults. Judy Taylor and Ruby Prior did also. The pool features a shallower depth at one end and warmer water than the town pool and consequently the little ones confidently relaxed and learned to swim.

We attended Church and Sunday school at Passchendale School during the 1950's. The Irma United Church minister held the service there.

Jack was active in the Farmers' Union in those early years. He also took an active part in setting up Roseberry Rural Electric Association Ltd. in this area. The lines were completed and farmers were officially hooked up to Calgary Power in August, 1953.

The Fabyan and Battle Heights Telephone Co. was also one of Jack's sidelines. One year when the telephone lines needed repairing he built a long boom on his 500 Case bucket tractor. At the end of the boom he fastened a barrel. With Jack on the tractor and Bill Ewert in the barrel they could quickly hook up the wires along the water filled ditches and sloughs. In September 1971 the underground telephone lines replaced the poles and the party lines. We opted for a private line but many still had up to four parties on theirs. It was better than having eighteen or more.



Jack and Nora Taylor's farm home in 1974.



In July 1982, the Jack Taylor family with Nora's parents, Pete and Gertie Funk on their 60th Anniversary. Back Row: Marvin Taylor, Donna Taylor holding Bryan Fischer, Gordon and Sherrilee Fischer, Margery and David Wallwork, Lori Taylor, Harvey Taylor, Bonnie Taylor. Middle Row: Jack Taylor, Gertie and Pete Funk, Nora Taylor. Front Row: Lee Wallwork, Sharina, Alana and Joelle Fischer, Amy and Joy Wallwork.

Through the years Jack and sons, Harvey and Marvin who are an active part of the farm operation, have replaced the old buildings with new shops, sheds and also put up two metal and two overhead bins. The grain cleaning area has several elevator legs and a scale. (Metric).

Sherrilee trained as an X-Ray Technician and worked at the Wainwright Hospital for some time after she married Gordon Fischer on June 26, 1971. They now live on my parents former farm in the Strawberry Plains District with their four children, Alana Dawn, Joelle Denise, Sharina Dee and Bryan James.

Margery trained at the University of Alberta Hospital as a nurse. She married David Wallwork on August 26, 1972 and they live on a ranch-farm at Bow Island, Alta. with their sons Vincent Jay and Ethan Lee and a daughter Amy Jennifer. Margery worked at the Bow Island Hospital until recently when she changed to Home Nurse which takes only one or two days a week away from home.

Harvey lives in his house which we built on our yard and farms here. He is the one who runs the grain cleaning plant. His hobbies are music, T.V. and playing Chess and Backgammon.

Marvin has a house started on the N.W. 7-46-7. He also farms. Marvin is interested in flying and has been taking lessons. He enjoys mechanical projects -- always has something going. Both boys received many thrills and some trophies Stock Car Racing at the Foggy Bottom Race Track.

Lorie enjoys art and has attended Red Deer College, Medicine Hat College and one Semester at Victoria University taking art courses. She worked at the Wainwright Star Chronicle for one year as a Typesetter and freelance sign painting.

Donna is at home now as a general helper. She has a real talent for getting along with children. Her hobbies are swimming, pottery, reading, embroidery and she would like to learn to ski well. Donna spends a lot of time outdoors and looks to a career that can keep her there.

Bonnie trained and worked as a receptionist in Ed-

monton and is now in Victoria taking a secretarial course. She enjoys swimming, reading, listening to music and games of Chess and Backgammon.

I always manage to keep busy with the general business of farming, housekeeping, gardening and raising a family. After I married I joined a ladies' club here, the Sew and So Club. It has provided us with entertainment and fellowship for many years as we raise funds for community and various charities. We have sewn and quilted many quilts. Since the Passchendale Community Association began I have been involved in one way or another, especially when the children played ball. I am now a 25-year member of the Order of The Royal Purple and enjoy working with the many "Ladies" who have become friends. Some of my hobbies are handicrafts, sports and reading.

WALTER THAYER

by Hazel Miskew

Walter Thayer came from Brooks district, working on farms and ranches in the Kinsella and Irma districts for a few years. He handled horses as his main interest, and broke many to saddle or harness. He worked for Vance Shippy, Pat Hollar and Joe Mac Holt.

In 1947 he married Mary Dickout of Wainwright, and took his new bride to the Tom Woods' farm. Here they ran the farm, while Tom Woods went drilling water wells around the area.

In the early fifties they and their first three children moved to the Okotoks town in Southern Alberta. Three more children were born there.

Since Walter chose to dislike education, he had a life of hard work and slow progress. However, he saw all of his children educated, three of them with University degrees. He was always a smiling, cheerful person despite his difficult existence.

He died an accidental death in 1979, resulting from a freak mishap at work in Okotoks. He was 55 years of age.



Walter and Mary Thayer, 1967.

GEORGE THEROUX FAMILY

by Genon Astley

George Theroux was born in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, U.S.A., on August 18th, 1887. In 1908, his older brother, Bill, had taken a homestead northeast of Kinsella and encouraged his brothers to do the same. George and his younger brother, John, arrived in Innisfree, March, 1909, went to the Land Titles office and filed on homesteads in Batt Valley, George on the S.W. 10-48-10-W4th and John on the N.E. 10-48-10-W4th. They bought three oxen in Innisfree and a plough in Viking, so were ready to tackle the job of homesteading.

The summer of 1910 they built a sod house on John's homestead. In 1911, with the help of Wm. Comely, George built a stone house which still stands today. After proving up his homestead George took over the I.H.C. Agency in Jarrow from November, 1912 through 1915.

M. Olivia Knudson was born in De Smet, South Dakota, U.S.A. on October 3rd, 1890. After graduating from De Smet high school, she attended Madison Normal School, returning to teach at her home school. About this time a letter arrived from her cousin, Chris Knudson, who with his brother Martin, had taken up homesteads in the Coal Springs district south of Irma. They needed a teacher for the fall term of 1914. Olivia accepted the position, having as early pupils the Lovigs, Lindquists, Yakes and Larsons.

In 1915, Olivia took on teaching duties at the Jarrow School and it was here she met George Theroux, who was secretary for the school. They were married on June 6th, 1917 in the spacious Knudson farm home at De Smet, South Dakota. They returned to the homestead and it was soon a busy place.

Three girls arrived to add joy to their home, Elsie, Genon and Irma.

Olivia spent two more years in the classroom, 1924-25 at Lake Vernon, south of Kinsella, while George sold Raleigh goods, then in 1928-29 at the home school, Batt.

The United Church minister from Jarrow held services at Batt school where the family attended. Olivia taught a Sunday School class and in later years was Superintendent. Her work with the Ladies' Aid earned her a Life Membership in 1960. She is also remembered for her

public speaking.

George was an early member of the Connaught Lodge in Viking, joining on September 20th, 1915. He told how he'd catch the train at Jarrow, along with Mr. Lindholm and Mr. Firkus, and attend Lodge meetings which were held above the old drugstore. Then after spending the night at the hotel, they'd return home on the morning train. He was also a founding member of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

An early telephone connection was made with the Snyders, Vic Rube and Fred, who along with their mother, lived two miles north. The fence line was used to connect telephone sets which didn't work too well when it rained.



George Theroux's stone house with its walls made of stone. This house is still standing today.

It was a sad time for the family when on March 4th, 1933, Elsie passed away after a brief illness. During the summer of 1935 a six year old boy, Donald Dagg, came to make his home with the Theroux.

The years rolled on. The girls, always inspired by their parents, graduated from high school at Camrose Lutheran College.

Genon received her teacher's certificate and started teaching at Willow View in the fall of 1943. It was here she met Roscoe Astley, a local farmer, and they were married on July 24th, 1948. Gwyneth arrived on November 5th, 1957. Roscoe passed away on May 10th, 1973 and Genon and Gwyneth moved into Irma that fall. Gwyneth graduated from University of Alberta in 1979 and spent two years teaching before her marriage to Harold Gulbraa on July 25th, 1981.

Irma graduated from the Archer Memorial Hospital in Lamont, then nursed for a period of time at the Wainwright Municipal Hospital. Irma married Carl Soneff of Irma, on July 29th, 1950, and for twelve years they operated the general store at Jarrow. They moved to Edmonton where they still reside. Of their three children, Douglas and Linda live in Edmonton and Allan in Prince George, B.C. They have five grandchildren.

Donald joined the Air Force and married Violet Perron in October, 1952. They took over the Theroux farm in March, 1958, when George and Olivia moved to Irma. Donald passed away on October 5th, 1974. Their daughter, Debbie, married Grant Zajics and lives at

Edgerton.

George and Olivia moved to Irma to retire but they were just as busy as ever. Their huge garden continued to be shared with many. Olivia, always an excellent cook, had more time for company, or sharing with those who were sick or unable to be about. What a happy home for children and grandchildren to visit, Olivia with her keen sense of humour and George with his serious but caring ways.

Health problems made necessary a move to Vialta Lodge at Viking in the fall of 1973. Olivia suffered a stroke in June, 1979 and passed away on May 11th, 1980. George passed away on March 13th, 1982 after a brief illness.



George and Olivia Theroux's 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 6, 1967. Back Row: Douglas Soneff, Donald Dagg, Ross Astley, Carl Soneff. Middle Row: Linda Soneff, Vi Dagg, Genon Astley, Irma Soneff, Allan Soneff. Front Row: Gwyneth Astley, Mr. and Mrs. Theroux, Debbie Dagg.

The following is an excerpt from a letter written by Olivia Theroux to her parents in De Smet, South Dakota in 1920.

"Thought I'd give you a list of the things which we got from that ten dollar bill which you sent us at Christmas. A big cooking kettle, a pair of dandy shears, dressing comb, a casque comb, wash basin, potato ricer, large gravy strainer, cookie cutter, doughnut cutter, a pair of stockings for myself, a pair of drawers for George, two summer combinations for myself, a pair of cotton creepers for Elsie, a pair of red woollen stockings and felt booties for Elsie and an alligator wrench for George". (It is interesting to compare the purchases in 1920 to 1983 and see how far a ten dollar bill went.)

Recipe. Step-by-step instructions for preparing ingredients you forgot to buy with utensils you don't own to make a dish the dog won't eat the rest of.

WILLIAM THOMPSON

by Archie Fleming

Bill was English and had been in the First World War in the Ambulance Corps. After the war he settled on the N.W. 16-48-9. He farmed and milked cows for a number of years. He then left and went to Edmonton and worked as an orderly in the University Hospital. He worked on the floors that had all the worst operations. He said it was a butcher shop.

The last time I saw Billy was in 1947 when I had my arm fractured at the wrist and Tom Smith had a similar mishap. Tom had the farm that is now owned by George Younker. Bill heard that we were there and he came up to visit us.

THE F.T. THURSTON FAMILY

by Phyllis Thurston Craig

Leaving familiar surroundings and a well-established farm, and journeying to an unknown land with an uncertain future is a challenge to anyone, but to do so with a family of eight children takes even more courage. In 1927 Nellie and Fred Thurston took this courageous step - making a decision which they never regretted.

Their home was a rich farm in the fertile Vale of Glamorgan in South Wales, not many miles from the coal-producing area known as the Rhondda Valley. Recurring coal strikes had drastically affected the economy, and the outlook for a growing family was bleak. Australia and Canada were recruiting settlers, and Canada was chosen because it was not quite so far away from "home". On March 25, 1927 the family left Liverpool, sailing on the S.S. Cedric, a Cunard liner. Crossing the Atlantic took a week. It was quite a stormy crossing, and most passengers suffered from seasickness. Ginger Ale and hard ship's biscuits were the antidotes, and most people felt like living again in a few days. We learned what it was like to be confined below deck - mountainous waves would have washed passengers overboard. When stewards set our plates in front of us, it was a major feat to cling to one's chair, hold the plate, try to convey the food to one's mouth, at the same time trying to rescue cutlery and dishes which went sliding out of reach as the ship canted.

Halifax was a welcome sight, even though there were huge chunks of ice in the harbour, something we had never seen before. The immigration hall teemed with people, all thankful to be on land again. The next thrill for us children was boarding the colonists' train, bound for Montreal. Here we were met by some very kindly Red Cross ladies, with hot drinks and food for all. Strange indeed were the sights along the railway - the long bridge across the St. Lawrence near Quebec, small settlements with tiny wooden houses, hundreds of miles of dense forest in Northern Ontario, still covered with deep snow - lakes still frozen over - tiny Indian shacks in the reserves, with animal skins stretched on the outside walls - horse-drawn vehicles of various kinds, and many other unfamiliar scenes kept us fascinated on the long trip west.

The settlers' train was equipped with hard, horsehair-covered seats, which became beds at night: a tiny kitchen

in each coach made it possible to cook meals on the coal and wood-burning stove. At the larger stations passengers dashed out to buy fresh meat, fruit and vegetables to feed their hungry families. One meal I particularly remember consisted of pork chops and potatoes - what a change to eat fresh meat, and what a challenge to cook (my father) to produce a meal for us on such a tiny stove! A long stop at Winnipeg, with its wide streets swept by biting winds, gave us a chance to run off excess energy. Then came the prairies, vast and exciting. One traveller, who was returning to Edmonton after a trip to Ontario, suggested that the first thing we should do when we arrived at our destination was to catch and tame a team of gophers. From there on we were watching for gophers - believing them to be a member of the horse family. Disillusionment soon came when we saw the little four-footed monsters which feed on the early crops.

As families left the train at stops along the prairie, they were met by men with strange-looking boxes on wheels, and away they went to their new homes. Was this peculiar contraption to be our transportation also? Yes, indeed, for when we arrived at the Irma station, there it was, waiting for us. "Dapper" Davis, who lived on what became known as the "Stead" place, and now owned by Don Burton, was there to welcome a travel-weary family.

The next stop was the Irma Hotel, where we were warmly welcomed by a dear, motherly lady who took us to her heart, and remained a good friend for many years - Mrs. Bella Shaw. Even though the dining room was closed, she served a delicious hot meal. This included our first taste of corn, served in individual side dishes. We made a number of guesses as to what this strange-looking substance might be, and finally Dad asked what it was before we knew what to do with it.

Daylight brought the first sight of our new hometown, and what a sight it was! An expanse of mud and water stretched from the station to the end of Main Street. Bordered for two blocks by raised, undulating boardwalks, and lined with wooden buildings, it seemed typical of the "Wild West" films which we had seen in Britain. What a thrill for us children - we gave no thought to the comforts that we had left behind, or to the inconveniences which lay ahead.

Next morning Mr. Davis drove us to our new home, known as the "Graham place" - the NW 1/4 of 2-46-9-W4th. The trail led us across the Emil Wirth land, part of which is now the golf course, up and down, around brush patches, through mud, water and snow. The road then swung north, around a big slough, and continued straight north, full of potholes, mud and ruts. The ride in the wagon, with ironclad wheels, and no springs, was far from comfortable, but comfort was forgotten in the excitement of reaching a new home. Suddenly, there it was, a little yellow house on the hill. I well remember my mother saying, "I always wanted a house on a hill!" Such was her optimistic spirit which carried her (and us) through the difficult years ahead. The house was small - four rooms and a cellar. How could a family of ten people who had left a ten-roomed house, fit into four rooms, with no plumbing, power, or gas? Yet this is what they did, and Mr. and Mrs. Thurston remained there until they moved into Chacutenah Manor in Irma in

1977.

The first weekend, and Easter Monday, brought a raging blizzard, which dumped a foot of fine, dry snow on the country. Oh! what joy - we had never seen such a snowfall, and there was a mad scramble to find pieces of cardboard, linoleum or tin to slide down the hill. A few weeks later an inviting pond beckoned us in for a swim - a bit different from the sea beside which we had lived, but water nonetheless. In we went, but a short time later we catapulted out, suffering agonies from a mass of red spots which covered our bodies. Mosquitoes (another unknown) had taken their toll. Out came the baking soda, and soon our red spots were painted white. That was our one and only swim in a slough.

The early years were difficult, but happy ones. One of our first visitors was Rev. M.L. Wright, the United Church minister, who came flying up the driveway in a buggy pulled by a fleet chestnut horse, with a box of carefully packed eggs. For the first year, my father worked for Cal Goodale, to familiarize himself with Canadian methods of farming. His new experiences included cutting brush and driving an eight-horse team to break new land. Riding a saddle horse to get to work in the winter was a cold experience, and when icicles formed on his moustache, that adornment was promptly shaved off.

We children walked to school in Irma, regardless of weather and road conditions. Because we had neither radio nor thermometer, we had no idea how cold it was, nor did we wear the warm clothing of today. It was long, fleecelined underwear and long stockings for girls, and overalls and jackets for the boys. Today's warm parkas and snowsuits would have been most welcome.



Breaking land on home place with eight horse team in 1935.

Clothes were washed by hand, and ironed with sad-irons heated on a wood stove. Pumping water by hand from a 280 ft. well, and carrying it in pails to the house was a real chore. In winter snow was melted and heated for washing clothes and for the Saturday night bath, when everyone bathed in a tub in the kitchen in front of that same wood-burning stove. In summer things were a bit easier, when we hauled water from the slough for laundry and baths. It always seemed that the rods in the well broke when the temperature was about -30F. At that time the well was uncovered; a tripod was rigged up, and the cold, laborious task of pulling the rods up was accomplished. As conditions improved, a gasoline engine

was installed - the magneto type - very temperamental, but a vast improvement over pumping by hand. Better times resulted in a windmill being installed, to be replaced finally by an electric motor.

We think back to the hours of back-breaking work on the farm, picking rocks by hand, stooking, making hay, milking, feeding calves and pigs, fighting with the knotter on the old horse-drawn binder, harnessing horses before daylight, and putting in long days of threshing, and compare this with the mechanized farm operations of today. I recall many hours of raking hay with the horse rake, and stacking the hay in the barnyard or forking it into the loft. We were up early in the morning to feed and milk cows, feed calves and pigs before we went to school. We all had to do our share of the work, and there was very rarely any grumbling. Often on arriving home from school on a cold winter day, there would be a huge pot of beef stew bubbling away on the stove ... what a delicious smell to greet us after the long, cold walk. A whole shank of beef could be bought for 25¢, and made a rich, nourishing stew. Mr. Hatch, the butcher, was also happy to sell a whole beef liver for 25¢, and kidneys were a gift - no one wanted them.

Our fuel was wood (coal being too expensive) - each day trees had to be dragged out of the bush and bucksawed. It was my job each day after school to saw enough wood to last all the next day. When it rained, smoke from the wet wood billowed out from the stove into the house, necessitating opening the door to clear the smoke out, at the same time letting the frigid air in. A woodpile was a sign of affluence. To be able to stockpile trees, and have a neighbour come in with a gasoline powered saw and cut them up was a real achievement. What luxury to be able to carry in enough sawn wood to fill the woodbox, and what a haven for the cheeky little chipmunks which abounded!

We lived through good times and bad, and were never hungry. We had a huge garden, so there were always plenty of vegetables. Wild fruit abounded, and as time passed Dad planted many apple and plum trees, as well as raspberry and currant bushes which produced excellent fruit. There were eggs, pork and wild fruit. Peaches, pears and apricots from B.C. were a real treat. Twice a year Mr. Osborne, a salesman for the Saskatoon Wholesale Grocery, paid us a visit and took orders for groceries. Such excitement when the order arrived! There were wooden cases of raisins, big juicy prunes, dried apples, tea, rice, and other staples. During the "Depression" a cream cheque for \$2.50, which was the top price for a five-gallon can of "Special" grade cream, bought the weekly supply of groceries, usually consisting of 10 lb. sugar, 1 lb. tea, 1 lb. raisins, 2 tins of tomatoes, 1 lb. rice, 1/2 lb. tobacco, and items such as baking powder, soda, Lifebuoy soap, flavourings, etc. as they could be afforded. Dad dry-salted pork, so there was always bacon and ham. Fat from meat was carefully saved to make soap, mostly for laundry. I can remember picking saskatoons for hours in the blazing hot sun, and selling them to Ross McFarland Sr. for \$1 per large milking pail. My mother made butter and traded it at the store for groceries, and sold cream and butter to town residents for ready cash - the cream was 25¢ a pint, and

butter 15¢ a lb.

We kept a small flock of sheep to provide meat and wool. Dad never had the heart to butcher our own lambs, some of which were bottle-fed pets. He traded these to a neighbour for a similar animal, so they were both happier. Wool from the sheep was a real boon to someone living in this climate, and in short order my mother was taught to spin by Mrs. "Cap" Larson, a dear lady who lived some miles north. "Cap" Larson built spinning wheels, using bicycle wheels. My mother became an accomplished spinner, producing enough wool to knit socks and mitts for Dad and my five brothers. I learned from her at the same time, and hope to pass the skill on to my daughters.

Flour and sugar sacks were well bleached, and became tea towels, girls' underwear, curtains and aprons. Socks were re-footed, overalls well patched, and footwear re-soled and re-heeled with leather soles and rubber heels purchased at the general store. We could make our own vinegar by getting some "mother" vinegar from someone who had some started.

To ensure a stock of flour, Dad took a load of wheat, each winter, to a gristmill at Mannville or Vermilion. This was a long trip with a team, usually taking three days, in sub-zero weather, with no shelter from the wind. Some of the trail wound across open country, so if an unexpected storm blew up, it was the horses which found the way home. Mother baked bread every second day to feed the growing family, which had increased by one. Nothing was wasted during those times. Dough was mixed with dry yeast, and set to rise overnight. One cold night the dough did not rise, and rather than let my father know about the shocking waste of flour, she buried the dough in the garden. The sun shone, the day became hot, and up came the dough like a giant mushroom. Pigs that were running loose found the dough, and it was a secret no longer.

Pigs were a never-ending source of aggravation, much as they are today. They chose to be born in the night, usually in the cold, wet spring. If the litter was too large for the sow to care for, or they were chilled and weak, the little ones were brought into the house, bathed in warm water, and after being carefully wrapped in an old sweater or blanket, placed in a box behind the cookstove. As they revived they became quite lively, and of course noisy. One night two of them got out of the box, running around the house squealing merrily. This lasted until they ran under the bed and disturbed my parents. Dad dropped the piglets into the cellar, where they were found in the morning curled up in the cabbages.

An evening out meant a session for the girls with the curling iron. This was heated in the stove or over a coal oil lamp. If it got too hot there was a sizzle and a chunk of hair burned off; too cold and there was no curl. We made our own entertainment, and it was always good. In winter we piled into the sleigh covered with straw, and went to a neighbour's for a friendly game of cards. Perhaps three or four families would be gathered in a small house - all the children were included. Babies were laid on the bed with the coats, and sometimes got lost in them. Young people held sleighing parties, with an outdoor weiner roast, or refreshments indoors if the

weather was too cold. Sloughs provided skating rinks, and tobogganing was popular. In summer there were picnics and sports, with an annual Sunday School trip to a nearby lake. Sunday afternoon frequently meant a gathering of our neighbour's children at our place. Our field provided a good ball diamond, and there was no need to travel miles to play an opposing team - they were all there - the Barbers, Burtons, Craigs and Knowles. Visitors were always made welcome, and we shared whatever we had. There was time to stop and visit, just dropping in on people when you were driving by. The horses needed a rest, we were told, but who needed an excuse to be neighbourly?

These were also the days of the "beef rings", formed by groups of farmers who had cattle. At that time practically every farmer operated a "mixed farm", which included raising grain, cattle, pigs, and poultry. This was before the days of rural electrification, so there was no refrigeration, and farmers took turns in butchering an animal. This was shared with other members of the beef ring, thus ensuring a supply of fresh meat.

There was no Anglican Church in Irma when the Thurstons arrived, so for a while they attended the United Church. Then a minister Rev. A.M. Trendell, came from Wainwright to hold services above Mr. Tripp's office, and later in the United Church. Mr. Pensam Yeend donated the lot facing what is now Highway 881, and under the direction of Mr. T. Sanders volunteer labour built St. Mary's Church. The Thurstons were devout members of the congregation, and Leo became a clergyman.



The family on the Silver Wedding Day - June 28, 1935. Back Row: Mary, Len, Mother, Dad, Ted, Phyllis. Front Row: Leo, Ivor, Winnie, Olive and Ron.

The little yellow house was enlarged, an open fireplace added, and grounds developed. Dad loved the garden, and until he moved to town spent most of his time working in it, tending the trees and flowers he had so lovingly planted. With the advent of electricity, appliances and plumbing made life much easier than it had been in the early days. As the years went by more land had been purchased, the first addition being the NW 1/4

14-46-9-W4, known as the Schaeffer place. With the help of my five brothers, a herd of good Hereford cattle was built up, and additional land acquired.

We were fortunate to be able to celebrate the 65th wedding anniversary on the farm, when about 75 family members from near and far were able to gather together. Dad passed away in 1978 at the age of 89, while our mother lived until, at the age of 92, she died in 1981. While our roots are in Britain, we can look back over fifty-seven years of being Canadian, and part of the Irma community - a proud heritage.

The family of nine children became scattered as the years went by. Mary moved to Ontario in 1937 and married Bert Russell. They had four children - Ted, Pat, Bud and Rob, all of whom are in Ontario. Bert passed away in 1978. Phyllis taught at Sunny Brae, four miles east of Irma, in Edmonton, Wainwright and Irma. She had married Mr. Crozier, and was widowed in 1951. In 1959 she married a childhood friend, Jim Craig Jr., and returned to the farm half a mile south of the old home. Two of the four children, Colleen and Michael, accompanied her. Colleen now lives in Wainwright, and Michael is a successful lawyer in Edmonton. Ted married Molly Burton, and farms north of Irma. Of their four children, Gordon and Marjorie carry on the traditional farming. Don has a thriving law practice in Edmonton, and Aletha (Mrs. Ron Dempsey) lives in Irma. Len went to Ontario in 1940 with a carload of cattle, accompanied by Earl Goodale. They remained in the east, where Len married Jean Rudd, and raised four children - John, Bob, (A veterinarian), Barbara and Kenneth, a computer technician. Len developed an Industrial Equipment and Machine Company in Brampton, where he still lives, and where John has taken over the family business. Ron farms near Irma, with his wife the former Florence Pugh. Two of their children, Darrell and Eva (Mrs. Jim Ford) reside on farms, while Joan is in Edmonton. Leo trained for the ministry in Winnipeg, where he met and married Joyce Warriner. They have three sons, Kenneth in the U.S.A., Lorne who works in the Stettler Post Office, and David who is a carpenter. Leo and Joyce are at present at St. Cyprian's Anglican Church in Strathmore. Ivor remained on the family farm until his untimely death in 1979. He had married Muriel Hill Gulbraa three years previously, and she is still on the farm. Olive taught school in Irma, Giles and Wainwright, and now lives north of Edgerton with her husband George Pugh. Their daughter Ellen Machado is in Edmonton, Mary Ann resides in Edgerton, Jim is a successful farmer, and Linda attends University. Winnie married Bill Askin, and after farming for a few years, they moved to Steen River where they operate a trapline. They have one daughter, Anne, and two sons, Bob and Will.

At this time there are twenty-eight grandchildren of Fred and Nellie Thurston, as well as forty-seven great-grandchildren. Their dream of a better future in Canada was fulfilled - they and their children prospered, and continue to enjoy life in their chosen country.

*We may not always see eye to eye,
but we can try to see heart to heart.*

RON AND FLORENCE THURSTON

Ron was born in Sydford, England in 1921 to a family of seven children. In 1927 he and his family left their home in England and came to Canada to settle north of Irma on N.W. 21-45-9. He obtained all his schooling in Irma walking the distance of two and one-half miles. On leaving school he engaged in farming and in 1939 bought a half section of C.P.R. land N. 1/2 35-45-9. He met Florence Pugh at Edgerton where his sister Olive taught school. Ron and Florence were married in October 1948 in the Anglican Church in Wainwright.

Florence was born in Wainwright in 1928 and lived all her early life on a farm near Edgerton. She took her public schooling at Giles, a country school, and her high school at Edgerton. On graduating from high school she supervised at House Lake School south of Greenshields. She later worked in the Wainwright hospital.

Ron and Florence made their home on the land that Ron had purchased in 1939. Less than a mile north of Irma. They had four children Harry Thomas, Darrel, Eva and Joan.

Harry Thomas was born on June 10, 1950 and died in infancy. Darrell was born July 31, 1951. Darrell farms and works on the oil rigs during the winter, mostly at Kindersley, Saskatchewan. Eva was born October 21, 1952 and was married in October 1973 to Jim Ford. Joan was married in May 1984 to Greg Bone and they are living in Edmonton.

Ron was and is very active in community projects. He has served with the Volunteer Fire Fighters, Chamber of Commerce, Cubs and Scouts, Co-op Board of Directors and the Anglican Church Vestry.

Florence has been plagued a good deal with ill health but is always very cheerful and kind. Ron is still active in farming.

TED AND MOLLY THURSTON

Ted is the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Thurston and was born in South Wales and spent his early years on a dairy farm there. In 1927 the family decided to come to Canada and settled in the Irma district on the N.W. 2-46-9 and he attended Irma public school. After he finished school he stayed at home and worked on the farm. In 1936 Ted rented a half section of land with his brother Len.

Ted purchased a half section of land in 1940 and the same year married Molly Burton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Burton, who was born and raised in the Alma Mater district northeast of Irma. From this union four children were born.

Marjorie married Allan Crawford. They are farming south of Irma.

Donald married Adele Cybulsky and they live in Winterburn. He practises law in Edmonton.

Gordon married Leone Greenwood and they are farming west of Irma.

Aletha married Ron Dempsey and they live in Irma and run the Irma Lumber Supplies.

They are now semi-retired but are still living on the

farm. Over the years some of the biggest changes we have seen were from horsepower to tractors and cars, electric power and natural gas in the house, also improved telephone service and improved roads.

LESLIE TINDALL FAMILY

by Betty Tindall

We came to live in the Strawberry Plains area on the Pete Funk farm, in November 1969. To me, Betty, it was kind of like coming home, as I had lived there with Mom and Dad and Larry from September, 1945 until I married Les in November, 1950.

Our children, Bill, Bob and Edith attended school in Irma - Dale too later on with Mrs. Fischer as his grade one teacher.

Peter our son well remembers dirty looks and scowls directed at him while snow-plowing a trail some mornings for the school bus. Winters, however, weren't all bad. By the tales told a lot of fun was had by the younger generation and their ski-doo's.

Summer and fall round-ups in Camp Wainwright also were the topic of many interesting stories. It was almost impossible to decide who had the toughest day, horse or rider.

In October, 1971 instead of our one regular old-timer, Dad, we also had Wes Bacon join us. The old-timers found the day as chilly as the younger ones did. When we three women riders dropped out of sight for a while, Wes wondered if someone should go see what happened. Dad, however, felt sure we'd be along shortly - and feeling more comfortable too.

Peter, Bill, Bob and Edie joined 4-H Clubs and also enjoyed curling. In the spring of 1975 we bought a ranch south of High Prairie. Now eight years later our family has increased to fifteen.

In October, 1975 Edith married Brian Perron from Quill Lake, Saskatchewan, whom she met at Irma. They now live in Grimshaw and own B. and E. Welding Ltd. They have two children, Angela and Nathan.

Peter was married in August, 1976 to Colleen Smith from Enilda. I'm sure they met at the curling rink. They have two daughters, Joyleen and Trudy.

Bill married Elaine McDermott in March, 1978. Elaine is the daughter of a neighbor of ours. Bill and Elaine have just set up their own farmyard on their own land.

In April of 1980, Bob married Gwen McDermott, cousin to Elaine and also a neighbor. Bob and Gwen set up their farmyard at Peter's first house location. Peter is now in the main farmhouse on the original farm. Les and I have recently built a new house not far away on land we have not sold to the boys. We each run our own operation but work together to our mutual benefit. Les has been employed with Alberta Hail and Crop since 1980, selling insurance and adjusting crops.

Dale is still single and at time of writing is working at the Fenton Ranch at Irma.

As an addendum to Betty's story I have to add that the Tindall's exhibit an active "joie de vivre" that's hard to match. Les has an unusual talent for getting into interesting situations and escaping unscathed. A case in point is the snowmobile trip he took one night to

demonstrate how strong a neck he had. He managed to drive into a barbed wire fenceline and rather than duck, he hooked onto the wire with his throat and drove on until the wire snapped. Les tells us he also managed to get into the live firing zone in the army area one time. The C.O. questioning his wisdom in being in such a dangerous area received the reply "if it's so dangerous why are you here?" Les rode his horse on to continue rounding up cattle. One has to admire such style.

Bob, Bill and Dale each came back to the farm in turn to work for us. They bring us tales of bears, wolves, muddy roads and very interesting neighbors in their new community. Grandpa's ranch has a special place in all our hearts I guess. Bob especially loved riding in the river valley. They've all enjoyed their snowmobiling along the river, especially the challenge of the "glacier", where a spring runs all year long and in the winter forms a big ice field down the hillside to the river. Dale loves to bring his friends from High Prairie to shoot gophers - something of a rarity in that country. We were surprised to hear that gophers were such a novelty when here they are such a nuisance.

Refer now to Gordon Fischer history.

A.W. TOLL FAMILY

by A. Dootson

Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Toll came about 1908 to a homestead at Irma, the S.E. 24-46-9-W4th. He was noted for having good Holstein cattle and Percheron horses.



Cliff and Carrie Toll.

Being in the Alma Mater district they boarded the schoolteachers in their home. Their homeplace is remembered by the neatness of the yard, white board fence, flowers and shrubs.

During their long residence at Irma, they took a keen interest in church and community work. Mr. Toll acted as Justice of the Peace for a number of years.

They had one son, Clifford, who was married. He and wife Carrie lived a short distance from his folks. The

district was saddened at Carrie's sudden passing in 1920 or 1921.

The farm was later owned by Calvin Goodale. The Senior Toll's white house was moved a number of years ago to the D.L. Robertson farm now owned by Bob Smallwood.

After leaving the farm the Tolls lived in Edmonton for sometime before moving to Oregon.

After a long illness Mr. Toll passed away July 17th, 1931.

EARL TOMLINSON

Earl Tomlinson was born in Caro, Michigan March 10, 1887. When he was twenty-one years old he decided to come West. He came to Hardisty and his first job was helping to build the Hardisty bridge. He took a homestead about eight miles south of Irma N.E. 14-44-9 and Jess Ross homesteaded the next quarter.

Earl's cousins, Bill and George Tomlinson from Ontario, also homesteaded near them. Earl's Dad and sister, Alma, came west and Alma and Jess Ross were married and went to Eureka, Montana to live. Earl went to Montana and worked for a man named Mr. Fish. A Tressa Ashworth was working there, too. Earl married Tressa in 1912 and a little boy named William was born September 2, 1913. Tressa passed away and Alma and Jess Ross had no children of their own so they adopted William. Earl went back to Michigan and joined the army and was sent to Archangel, Russia. After the war was over he came back to the Irma district in 1920.

He worked for the Rutledge Bros, R.D. Smallwood, and Cliff McKay. Then he bought the "Benley Place" N.W. 25-44-9-W4, seven and one-half miles south of Irma. He started farming with a few horses, some cattle and a Model T Ford Coupe.

In January 1927, the new teacher at Lewisville School was Elma Solberg from Ryley. The Ford Coupe soon started travelling south to Elma's boarding place. On July 27, 1928 we were married in Edmonton.

We all remember that farming wasn't good in the "dirty thirties". We didn't go hungry and soon things gradually got better. The battery radio was a luxury and we had to pay for a license to use it. Tractors with steel wheels took the place of horses in the fields, then came rubber tires, etc. and combines. Our first combine was small but did the job.

Electricity came from Hardisty in 1940. How fortunate we were to get hooked up with a light bulb hanging from every ceiling. Even the barn was wired. Much safer than a coal oil lantern with boys helping with the chores.

During these hard times we were blessed with four children, Norris, Hugh, Garth and Alice. They all attended Strawberry Plains School in lower grades and High School in Irma. In 1954 the army bought our home three quarters so Earl, Alice and I retired to Irma.

When Garth finished High School he got a job on Farm Electric. This job took him to many towns. At Barrhead he met Phyllis Hildebrandt and they were married July 1957. He was working for Calgary Power by then. Now he has his own office in Whitecourt and is in



The Tomlinson Family. Alice, Hugh, Elma, Earl, Garth, Norris.

Insurance. They live on an acreage east of Whitecourt. They had four children, Gregory, Ronald, Darlene and Beverly. Gregory took one year University and was killed in a car accident. Ronald is presently working for Trans-Alta Utilities in Wainwright. Darlene works in a bank in Edmonton and Beverly is in High School. Phyllis helps at the office and does Income Tax.

Alice married Bruce Willerton February 1958. (see Willerton history).

Norris married Shirley Brown July 1958. They live in Edmonton and have two children, David and Susan. They are in Jr. High School and are active in sports. Norris has worked for Canadian National Railway for over twenty years. He is Captain of the C.N. Police Force. Shirley Mae is a busy housewife and does volunteer work as well as working for the church.

Earl was a Charter Member of Gratton Masonic Lodge in Irma. He had several heart attacks and on September 10, 1959 he passed away.

I belong to U.C.W. and New Horizons. I received a Gold Medal in September 1980 because I've lived in Alberta since 1902.

HUGH TOMLINSON FAMILY

Hugh Robert Tomlinson was born at Irma the second son of Earl and Elma Tomlinson. He attended Strawberry Plains School for nine years. Hugh and his brothers and sister rode ponies and then horses to school two and one-half miles. Hugh attended Irma High School for three years. The next three years Hugh worked for Stuart Fenton, Sivert Nilson and Martin Creasy. He then came home to farm with his father and Norris.

Hugh married Aletha Hill on July 18th, 1953. They moved to the Askin farm (S.W. 24-45-9-W4) three miles southeast of Irma. During the years they have farmed here, they both played softball. Hugh coached Little League Team for several years. His leisure-time in winter was spent coaching hockey for eight years. He was also active in Unifarm serving both as President and Secretary of Gratton U.F.

Aletha with the help of Linda Lukens organized and coached a junior girls' team for several years. Her other

activities included helping at the arena for both figure skating and minor hockey. Aletha joined Strawberry Plains W.I. in 1958 and is still an active member, holding the handicraft convenorship. In 1976 the Chamber of Commerce chose the Hugh Tomlinsons as the Farm Family.

They have four children; Dale, Raymond, Irene and Linda. They all attended elementary and high school in Irma.



Raymond, Sherry, Hugh, Laverne and Gail, Lee, Irene, Aletha, Johnathon, Linda, Dale.

Dale graduated in 1978 and worked at the Kinsella Battery north of Irma for one and a half years. He came home to farm with his father in May 1980. Dale married Gail Oracheski on July 19, 1980. They moved to Edmonton in the fall where Gail completed her second year at N.A.I.T. taking Architecture and Interior Design. Dale worked for Pacific Oil Field Equipment. In the spring of 1981, they moved back to Irma. Dale is farming and Gail is employed as secretary for Cargill Elevator.

Raymond worked at Khop Battery north of Irma after he graduated in 1979. He played Jr. B Hockey in Wainwright for three years. In 1982 Raymond came back to farming with his father and Dale. On July 2, 1983 Raymond married Sherry Turner of Wainwright. At present they reside in Irma. Sherry is employed as a receptionist at the Wainwright Medical Clinic.

Both Dale and Raymond were members of the Irma Bantam Hockey team that won the Provincial C Championship in 1975. In 1977 they travelled with the Irma Midget ball team to the Alberta Summer Games, where the team won the gold medal.

Irene graduated from Irma High School in 1981. She attended Lakeland College in Wainwright taking a Secretarial Arts Course. On April 2, 1983, Irene married Lee Bird of Viking. They reside on an acreage just east of Viking. Lee works for J.D. Construction at Viking.

Linda married Laverne Rabby of Bruce on Dec. 4, 1982. They lived in Edmonton during the summer of

1983. Linda and Laverne are presently living at Irma. Linda is attending Irma High School taking her Grade Twelve. Laverne attended Lakeland College in spring of 1983 taking his first year towards his welding ticket. They have a son, Johnathon.

LEWIS TREICHEL FAMILY

by Mrs. Olga Overbo

(The town of Jarrow was named Junkins before changed to name of Jarrow.)

I, Olga Treichel moved into Jarrow in October of 1919 with snow on the ground, from a farm one and a half miles north of Jarrow, known as the Quillman farm, with Lewis and Emily Treichel, my parents, one brother Henry and one sister, Hilda. I was coming eight years old, Henry six and Hilda, four. I can recall everything being very strange to me and many times was homesick for the farm. As time went on I did get used to town life, yet something was missing. My folks had bought a house on the west end of town and my dad worked as a laborer on the Jarrow section crew. Tom Redusky lived in the Jarrow station and was section foreman then. When he came to our house he treated us children to chocolate bars.

Just shortly after we moved into town my brother and I started school with a man teacher, Mr. Cobb. It must have been difficult for him and us too as we couldn't talk the English language. Then we were out of school soon and the 1918 flu broke out and along with a huge amount of snow and a cold winter things were very difficult. We didn't have the conveniences like we have today. Many people were sick - we had the flu and along with many others got over it.

After Christmas we had a teacher by the name of Miss Kerr. I didn't like her or I didn't understand her and hated school - she is the only teacher I disliked.

September of 1920, Mr. Tommy Edmunds from south of Kinsella came and taught school until Christmas that year. The children all liked him. He was a nice friendly teacher. Sometimes on a fall afternoon he would take us out nature studying, which we all enjoyed. He left many happy memories behind as he taught us how to sing and was the first teacher to put on a Christmas concert with us. The following years the new teachers did the same thing.

I must recall back to my first day of school. We didn't know what recess meant and thought it was time to go home for dinner. Mary Jamison and Hans kept us from going home at recess. Howard Jamison went to school with us too. The Jamisons lived a mile north of Jarrow.

After New Years of 1921, Miss Alice MacNeill finished this half of the term. I liked her very much. She married a bank manager, Mr. Fleming. (The Royal Bank of Canada had a branch here at that time.)

The fall term of 1921 Miss Lena MacNeill (Alice's sister) taught the full term - we liked her too.

The fall of 1922, Miss Daisy Johnson taught full term. She was also a good teacher and a very famous basketball player and has taught many years in Edmonton - probably retired by now.

The fall of 1923, ending June 1924, was taught by Miss

Anna Watt from Tofield - a minister's daughter. She was also nice.

The term of 1924, a teacher by the name of Miss Mary McKay taught Jarrow school till June, 1928. She was a very good teacher and was able to teach children that other teachers didn't take the time with. I went to school until 1927 and got my grade eight diploma. The last year Mary had grade nine to teach too and there were now forty-two children going so she had a big job. I did not go back as I had a speech problem with stammering. I have wished many times I had gone back and learned what I could. Many times in later years it would have come in handy for me. They did get a high school in Jarrow for awhile - on top of one of the stores across from the post office in the fall of 1928. Miss Mildred Smith taught that first year and Mr. W.H. Barton after that from grade eight to eleven. Miss Daisy Kennedy taught in the old



Henry Treichel driving horses for Knut Overbo.

school in the fall term of 1928 to Christmas in 1929 and Miss Margaret Dinwoody finished the rest of the term in 1930. Miss Helen Daugherty taught from 1930 to the end of 1931 and after that I don't remember the other teachers as I left Jarrow and came to a farm southwest of Kinsella as a bride of Herman Overbo.

I remember admiring the house I am now living in. It had yellow painted siding trimmed in white. Mr. and Mrs. Ross Eaton lived there then but I never thought that some day I would be living in it myself.

Jarrow in those days was a great "Saturday night" town and there seemed to be quite a lot of action there with more houses being built. It consisted of two stores back in 1919 - one was operated by Mr. J.D. Manners and the other by Halloway Brothers. Later the first garage came in and a fellow from Greenshields by the name of Harold McDougall operated it. He was known to be the best welder around the country - many came from far and near to get their work done. My brother, as a child, spent many hours watching Harold at his work and finally he became a mechanic himself for many years in Edmonton. In 1926 or 1927 Bruce McDougall came and joined Harold. He had a wife and family of two children. Harold was married in 1922 but they had no family.

A mysterious fire burned the garage down in the summer of 1929 and that fall Bruce got a garage job in Lougheed and I believe Harold did build up again in

Jarrow and later went to Edmonton. Walter Morgan also ran a garage in Jarrow for awhile.

There was a restaurant operated by a Chinese, by the name of Jang Lee, when we first moved here. He was a very nice fellow. One incident I remember as a child, my brother and I each got an ice cream cone. Not knowing what fire crackers were, when one went off with a bang, it frightened Henry and I so badly that the ice cream fell out of the cones onto the sidewalk. Jang picked up the ice cream and gave us new ones - how nice of him to do that.

Halloway Bros. store was sold to J.C. Curlett in 1925 as Mr. Jim Halloway had diabetes and lived here for awhile in a small shack a little way out of town. That same year he moved to Vancouver and passed away. They had two children, Mavis and Clifford. Clifford has been gone six years and Mavis lives in Victoria, B.C. She was one of my best girlfriends - we had many good times together.

In the early years there was a blacksmith shop operated by Mr. Lovig. I called him Grandpa Lovig as he was a very kind man, liked by everybody. He sold his business to Percy Bamsey in 1924 and built himself a house by the highway. He passed away in 1927.

There was also a cream buying station for awhile operated by Mr. Ainsley who had a large family. This station was later operated by Mrs. T.A. Lindberg for awhile and after that it was made into a pool hall and barber shop operated by Mr. Bill Matthew, who passed away in 1924. Others to take over after that were Bill Epworth, Tommy Lockhart and last, Joe Petzman.

There was a lumber yard operated by Jack Saker first, then Mr. Lindholm and later Mr. W.H. Barton. Later Percy Bamsey operated the post office and then Mr. and Mrs. Barton, followed by the Beltons.

There was a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada in Jarrow until 1925, with Mr. Fleming as manager and later William Mann. Other members of the staff were Mary Stouffer, Stanley Bridgeman, Stanley Lennox and a Mr. Shaw.

Later years they had a butcher shop for awhile.

Mr. Nichols was station agent for many years. He had a wife and four children.

There was a section foreman's house and also a bunk house for the men. There were two elevators; Alberta Pacific and United Grain Growers and later the Alberta Wheat Pool was built.

The livery barn and dray hauling was operated by Arnold Christenson. They had two children, Avis and Elvin.

Mr. Memin operated the Alberta Pacific Elevator in 1920-21. A fire in 1930 burned the pool hall, and the newer post office. Percy Bamsey operated a post office and lived in Comley's Hall. They used the hall for dances in the early days. The new community hall was built in 1929.

I remember the first time I went to church, it seemed strange to me. Mr. Allen was minister in 1919 and 1920. More ministers came later, Smith, Cantelon, McNeil, Coghill and Griffith. The rest I don't remember as I left after that. I went to school with Hart Cantelon, who is a well known minister in Edmonton now. The church was well kept for many years. Many houses were moved out



Mrs. Treichel, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Meakins, Joan and Ellen Meakins.

of Jarrow. The Arnold Christenson house was moved to Kinsella by Wylie Brown, Lindberg's shack on the hill beside us was formerly owned by Jack Moles. He used to take the bells off the cows at night, when they disturbed his sleep, and hang them on the fence. His neighbors had to collect them the next day. Mrs. McCracken's, house beside the parsonage was moved out. Bill Matthew's house, Comley's hall, Mr. Lindholm's buildings, Chase's nice big white house, and the stores are both torn down and gone. It seems sad to see a town go down to nothing, but time changes everything. The school was also moved. In 1949 they did get a new town well. It was a blessing to have good water. Mr. and Mrs. Peet's house was built in 1920. They moved from a farm north of Jarrow. Mr. Peet worked as a laborer with the Jarrow section crew for many years.

Jarrow for many years had some good sports days and they were held on King George V's birthday, June 3rd. They had races of all kinds, greasy pig, greasy pole climb, ball games, bucking horse contests, refreshments, and a dance at night. Many years horse races were held also. There were also well put-on Christmas concerts by the teachers and pupils. Everyone looked forward to these two yearly events.

I remember winning twenty-five cents when I was a child, which made me very happy. My childhood was a happy time, I can hardly believe yet that Jarrow became a ghost town.

Many people I remember living there were: Mr. and Mrs. Norman Luxton, the managers of the U.G.G. elevator; Mr. and Mrs. Schelton and three children who lived in the Carl Lindquist house, two Kawalik families who worked on the section crew. They both had large families. Mr. and Mrs. Flett worked in an elevator. Mr. and Mrs. Milton Orr also lived in the Linguist house at one time. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Davis lived in the Chase house. Fred Rowland worked for Mr. J.C. Curlett in the store. Mr. and Mrs. Brezanski worked on the section and lived in Jarrow for awhile. They later moved to Kinsella. Mr. and Mrs. Jackowich also lived in the Jarrow section house. They too moved to Kinsella.

Jarrow also had a lovely tennis court. Not many played except the teachers and the bankers. I wasn't allowed to play.

Mr. and Mrs. Marbry lived in Jarrow for awhile. Mrs.

Caroline Marshall lived in the house next to us, where Buster Lingley now lives. She raised Marshall Burns who is living south of Jarrow. She was his grandmother. His parents both died of the flu epidemic in 1918. Mrs. J.D. Manners, Mrs. Ambrose Firkus and Mrs. Ellis of Calgary were also daughters of Mrs. Marshall. Mrs. Marshall gave me a nickel for doing errands quite often and a nickel meant a lot in those days.

I recall there was also a nice white painted heavy plank stockyard fence not far from the elevators. Cattle buyers used to come from all over and buy cattle and they would be shipped to Edmonton by rail. Now it seems everything is hauled by truck. My brother and I and some of the other children spent many hours playing around the stockyards. If our mothers had seen us walking the top ledge of that fence I'm sure they would have gotten many grey hairs, but as luck would have it I never remember anyone getting hurt, and we did have fun.

Mrs. Olga Overbo passed away in 1984.

TRIPP, GEORGE

George Tripp came from Ontario in the early 1900's before the railway came through. He homesteaded on SE 6-46-7.

In 1907 he worked on the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Battle River bridge.

Mr. Tripp sold his farm to William Milton. He built a livery barn in Irma in 1910.

Mildred McKay Crocker, a widow came west from New Brunswick with her father Alexander McKay, her Aunt Sophie Bateman and her brother Jack to join Cliff McKay on his homestead.



Mr. and Mrs. George Tripp.

In 1918 she married George Tripp. During the influenza epidemic they helped those who were sick. George drove Dr. McGregor to many country homes and delivered medicine to many more.

In 1922 George Tripp opened the J.I. Case Machine Agency and in 1924 the Cockshutt Agency. He sold out

to Wes Maguire. In 1927 he took over the Massey Harris Agency from Bob Simmerman and sold to Vic Hutchinson in 1931.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Tripp were active in community affairs. George was on town council. He was also a Past Master of Gratton Masonic Lodge.

Mildred Tripp was secretary of the United Church Women for seventeen years (1912-1929). She belonged to Sunrise Chapter of O.E.S. until it disbanded in the thirties. In 1959 she was a charter member of Martha Chapter O.E.S. She used to take an active part in three act plays they put on in Irma.

The Tripps owned the first car in Irma and loved taking a tenting trip to Banff nearly every summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Tripp never had a family but they were dearly loved by their nieces and nephews, the McKay, Smallwood and Mills children.

Mr. Tripp passed away in 1939 and Mrs. Tripp in 1963.

ANDY TURNBULL

Mr. and Mrs. Andy Turnbull homesteaded in the Strawberry Plains district in 1910. Mrs. Turnbull was a sister to Bert and Art Long. They had come from Edmonton but Mrs. Turnbull became disillusioned with farm life and left.

For years Andy had Christmas dinner with the Hill family. In later years he lived with his niece in Edmonton where he passed away.

THE NELSON TWEEDY STORY

Nelson Tweedy was born at Orangeville, Ontario in 1881. He took most of his education there and received his teaching certificate in Regina, Sask. It was a certificate for the North West Territories, and is still in the possession of the family. This was of course before there were Prairie Provinces as we have known them since 1905. From there he went to Leduc where he taught school and took out a homestead. It was a predominantly German Community, and he became quite proficient in the language.

The Leduc history book (1956) states that Nelson was the second teacher in the new Leduc School, receiving a salary of \$45.00 a month. This was in 1902, and the school tax was 6¢ an acre. It further states that he played hockey and lacross on the local teams. He also competed in rifle competitions, winning a trophy in 1904.

While teaching at Leduc he met and married Margaret Plewes, at Beaumont. She had come west with her family from Parkhill, Ontario. They had lived in Winnipeg for awhile prior to coming to the Leduc area.

Nelson came to the Jarrow area in 1907, took out a homestead claim (N.W. 34-44-10-W4th), built a 12 x 16 house, and hired ten acres broken, seven miles south of Jarrow.

Excerpts from story as written by Margaret:

"We travelled on a mixed train from Wetaskiwin and arrived in Loughheed late in the evening of Good Friday in 1908. The train stopped to deliver freight at each small town. My infant daughter, Lillian and I, rode in the

coach. Our settlers' effects' car was attached to the train. We got a room in the only hotel in town and stayed a couple of days while unloading cars.

We left for the homestead, seven miles south of Jarrow, on Monday, in a triple box wagon with a spring seat on top. We were driving quietly along when one front wheel struck a badger hole. Almost before we recovered from that, the other front wheel struck another one and "bingo", we were all thrown out. The baby slipped out of my arms before I hit the ground. I was almost afraid to pick her up, but she was well bundled up and suffered no harm. We finally got to the homestead. The house was built of new lumber and smelled so nice. Nelson decided to go right back and help another man move his stuff out - unless I was afraid to stay there alone all night. Afraid of what? However, when it did get dark, I looked out and there was a ring of fire all around the horizon. I knew it was a prairie fire miles away, so didn't worry. That night I "set" bread. I don't know what happened but it was solid. I, who had made good bread since I was thirteen years old, have my first bread on the homestead be like that! I poked it down a badger hole and forgot about it. Nelson got back Tuesday night and everything was O.K."

Over the years, Nelson taught in a number of schools in the area, either riding horseback or driving a buggy or sleigh. Whether he taught to supplement the farm income, or farmed to supplement the teaching income is a matter of speculation at this time.

He was the first teacher at Jarrow in 1911, using the church for classes until the school was built in 1912. From there, he taught at Coal Springs as the first teacher when that school opened in 1913, for a salary of \$65.00 a month. Nelson also taught at Hazelwood and at Lougheed and Merna as relief teacher at various times. The last school he served was at Yonkers, Sask. for four years.

It must have been a very lonely life for a young woman, in a sparsely settled land, alone all day with young children while her husband was away teaching. Although, I would wonder if she had time to think about being lonely, as there were always cattle, horses, chickens and turkeys, as well as a garden to occupy her time. To say nothing of all the baking, cooking, washing, and sewing clothing for her large family, which eventually increased to an even dozen.

Nelson continued to teach school and farm until his death from a ruptured appendix in Nov. of 1928, three months before the youngest son Nelson (Babe) was born. There were no miracle drugs at that time to fight infection. Margaret, with the help of the older boys continued to farm and educate the family. All the children took their public schooling at Melbrae.

In Feb. of 1933, the farm home and all possessions were destroyed by fire. With pioneer fortitude and the help of neighbors, they re-established a home and eventually settled on the farm now occupied by son, Nelson and family.

After leaving the farm, Mrs. Tweedy lived in Sedgewick for a number of years, owning the dress shop there for a while. She then lived in Edmonton, Wainwright, and Victoria, and spent the last five years of her

life in the Killam Auxiliary Hospital. She passed away July 1, 1977 at the age of 90 years.

Lillian started school at Melbrae at the age of five so that there would be enough students to warrant opening a school. She entered Misericordia School of Nursing in 1927, graduating in May of 1930. She went to Wainwright Hospital as a graduate nurse and remained until 1937 when she left to nurse in the mining towns of Cadomin and Wayne. Lillian joined the Royal Canadian Medical Corp. early in 1941 and served as a nursing sister in England and the Western Front in Europe for four years. Her hospital ship was the first ship to land in Normandy in mid 1944. In 1947 she returned to Wainwright as the Public Health Nurse, and remained there until 1969 when she was forced to retire due to ill health. An Appreciation Night was held in her honor in Wainwright on June 24th, 1969. Lillian will be remembered by many in the Irma area as the Public Health Nurse for many years. Lillian passed away in Victoria, April 11, 1971.



Mr. and Mrs. Bill Daugherty and family. Lillian Tweedy on left, Elsie Tweedy on right.

Bob continued the farming operation until 1944, when he bought grain for a number of years, in different areas. He then moved to Edmonton where he became a real estate agent. He and his wife, Belle (Arkinstall) reside in Edmonton at the present time.

Tom homesteaded in the Dawson Creek area from 1930 to 1939. When he returned he married Enid Coughlin, and they farmed for a few years. He worked on construction in various areas in Alberta and B.C. until he retired to Gabriola Island, B.C. Enid passed away in 1961. They had two children, Mina (Deceased) and Terrance.

Harold volunteered to serve his country early in the war, in 1939, when he joined the Loyal Edmonton 49th. Regiment. In 1943, after an intensive training period, the 49th Battalion embarked on the 39 day invasion of Sicily. While pursuing the German forces through Italy, Harold fell when a trench mortar claimed his life on Oct. 6, 1943.

Bernice received her teaching certificate at Camrose Normal School and taught in the Edson area, where she married Ernest Drumm. She raised her family and moved to the town of Edson where she resumed her teaching career. She had been retired for one year when she passed

away in 1980. Her family consisted of one son, Allen and two daughters, Irma and Margaret.

Irma took her high school at Irma and received her teaching certificate at the Alberta Normal School in Edmonton. She taught in various schools and married Bill Fleming. She raised her family of two girls, Maureen and Sheilagh, and resumed teaching in Calgary, where she resides at the present time. She retired from teaching and is a consultant supervisor for student teachers.

Douglas farmed for a few years and moved to Kimberley with his family, where he worked until returning to Sedgewick. He was town foreman for a number of years and then worked for A & B Pipelines until his semi-retirement. His family consists of his wife, Eleanor, Laverne (Deceased), Diane, Ronald (Deceased), Cathy and Lillian.

Elsie took high school in Irma. She joined the Canadian Women's Army Corp in 1941. She was overseas until 1945 and remained in service until her discharge in 1946. Elsie owned a dress shop in Sedgewick for a few years and then worked for the Red Cross Blood Donor Mobile Unit, until her marriage to Leo Noble. She raised two sons, Lester and Leo Jr. She passed away in 1981.



Margaret Tweedy's seventy-sixth birthday party held at Melbrae school. Back Row: Elsie, Bob, Lillian, Doug, Tom, Irma, Bernice, Nelson. Front Row: Evelyn, Mrs. Tweedy, Marion.

Marion worked in an aircraft repair factory during the war. After the war she worked for the Government in the Land Titles Office until her retirement when she moved to Victoria with her husband, Peter Campbell. She passed away in 1982.

Evelyn and her husband Bob Campbell farmed for a few years and then moved to Edmonton where they still reside. Evelyn works on the support staff of Thorncliff School. Their family are Bob Jr., Lorne, Lorraine, Joan and Mary.

Lester joined the R.C.A.F. in 1943, and went overseas in 1944. He became Flight Sergeant and Tail Gunner of a Lancaster Bomber. On April 30, 1945, six days before the end of the war, Lester and his flight crew of six crashed

due to unknown cause, killing all seven crewmen.

Nelson (Babe) worked on a variety of construction jobs before taking over the home farm in 1951. He and his wife, Jenny Mae (Osak), continue to farm the original Tweedy homestead. Their two sons, Vernon and Bryan along with their father are best known in the Irma area through their participation and active interest in sports such as hockey, fastball and curling. For this reason I will elaborate a bit on Vernon and Bryan.

Vernon lives in Lougheed and has his own siding installation business. He enjoys curling and fastball.

Bryan lives in Lougheed and works for Petro-Can. He married a local girl, Debbie Meakins, of Jarrow. They have a son, Darren. Bryan is on the Lougheed Hockey and Fastball teams.

We have often thought of the tremendous debt we owe to the tireless efforts of all the wonderful pioneers who settled this country. Mother Tweedy never complained that her lot had been harder than most, though she must have had some very difficult and trying times after her husband's death, and through the war years, with four children overseas.

A MATTER OF OPINION

by William Milburn - Irma Times 1936

*The hockey team of this small town
Boasts trophies of hockey 'tis true
And loud is the praise that's heard these days,
When the season of playing is thru;
Now heads are swelled, and from all sides
You'll hear of these players' renown,
And it would seem there is a no team
Like that of Irma town.*

*But who is the Irma team, my friend?
And do they deserve their name?
For where did the local pucksters get
Ere outside players came?
And would the local hockey boys
Have won the prizes they sought -
If in later days from many ways
New players had never been brought?*

*Do these players from round about
Strive for a strange team's name?
Do they play with heart and soul
For the sake of Irma's fame?
Is honor deserved by any team
If outsiders do the work?
And would this town still hold renown
If extraneous players should shirk?*

*Your opinion is your own, my friend,
The team is maintained by you,
You must decide whether or not
Meritorious players are few;
And if they are then should we hold
All players in high esteem?
Should we praise, in unlimited ways,
The Irma hockey team?*



Joe and Tina, Harold and Carl Gulbraa cultivating trees. Note Harper Hills in background.



Harold & Carl in front of original Gulbraa house.



Iola, Margaret and Tammy O'Neill in 1927 with Jess the horse.



Robert Kasten with Belgian stud in 1934.



Gordon Hollinger



Lorraine and Harold Gulbraa in 1962.

MR. AND MRS. MAX ROBERT UHLICH

by Dorothy Benoit

Max Uhlich was born on October 30th, 1873 at Hansdorf, Germany, where his father owned and operated a bake shop. He worked there during his early years. In 1881 Max married Ann John at Canton Oregon, Switzerland.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was cook on board. Mr. Uhlich received medals for his activities during World War I.

Mr. and Mrs. Uhlich's first child, Clara, was born at St. Josephs, Missouri, U.S.A. in 1904. About 1905 the family moved to Vermilion where three more children were born, Sam, Edith and "Toots". They lived south of Vermilion for awhile and Max worked in the bake shop.

Moving again, they purchased a homestead on the N.W. 18-46-7. They farmed with oxen at first, even using them to make their twice yearly trip into Vermilion for supplies.

They were very unfortunate to lose everything except the house, in a prairie fire. Prairie chickens were found burned right on their nests. Tragedy struck again when Mr. Uhlich lost his wife and youngest son.

In 1927 Christopher Atkinson moved onto the farm and Max moved to Edmonton, baking at McGavin's and later at Jasper Park Lodge. After he retired he moved to Carrot Creek where he lived until his death in 1950. He was laid to rest in Edmonton, Alberta. His youngest daughter died in 1949.

Clara Uhlich married Christopher Atkinson in 1925. They lived on the J.G. Clarke place for a couple of years and then moved to Max Uhlich's homestead on the N.W. 18-46-7.

To this family there are five girls; Christina, Mrs. Steve Fuscko; Edith Katherine (Kate), Mrs. Robert Place; Dorothy, Mrs. Hector Benoit; Doreen, Mrs. Henry King and Elizabeth Barbara (Betty), Mrs. James Lytle.

Christina and Steve have three children, Clara Ann (Mrs. Mac Adamson) - they have seven children, Ken-

neth, Laurie, Clinton, Tammy, Arnold, Timothy and Debbra. Ronald and Hilda Fuscko have two boys, Lloyd and Kevin and Ralph Fuscko is not married.

Steve and Christina live on a farm in the Irma area. The rest of the family live in and around Wainwright.

Kate and Robert Place have three children, Marjorie, Mary Jane and Christopher.

Dorothy and Hector Benoit are living on the Max Uhlich homestead. They have three children, Harvey, Jerry and Mary Ann. Harvey, Leanne and little girl, Lindsay, live at Lacombe. Jerry and Mary Ann live at Fabyan, Alberta on the farm. Mary Ann is attending N.A.I.T. in Edmonton.

Dorreen and Harry King have three children, James, Christina and Robert King, they all live in Edson.

Betty and James Lytle have two children, Todd and Danny. Their residence is at Carrot Creek, Alta.

Christopher Atkinson is living at Carrot Creek on his farm.

THE VANDERVAATE FAMILY

by Rosamund Vandervaate

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Vandervaate and their 2-year-old son, Henry, moved into the Willowview District from Quincy, Washington, U.S.A. in 1912, settling on a homestead on the S.W. 28-48-10-W4th.

They lived in a tent, between two hay-stacks the first year, then in 1913, they built a sod shack. Times were hard but they raised a healthy family of five children, Henry, Fred, Minniebelle, John and Violet. They farmed there for 45 years, and then retired to the town of Mannville.

Henry married Rosamund Beckett (Rosie) from the Rodino District. They had two chosen children, Reginald and Constance. Over the years, they provided a home for many foster children. They lived on their farm for 31 years, then moved to Barrhead, where Rosie ran a



Atkinson family. Back Row: Steve Fucsko, Christina, Elizabeth (Betty), Edith (Kate), Max Uhlich (Mrs. Atkinson's father). Front Row: Christopher Atkinson (Father), Dorothy and Doreen (twins), Clara Atkinson (Mother).



Henry and Fred Vandervaate at Willow View School.

'Receiving Home' for unfortunate children. Henry worked at many occupations - carpenter work, cement work, and for the Town of Barrhead.

Reggie married Norma Weeks of Barrhead and they have two daughters, Danita and Corinne. Reggie is Manager of the Valleyview Co-op Store and his wife is a Registered Nurse, and works for the Valleyview Hospital. Connie married William Vaudner of Calgary, and they have one son, Rance. William works as a surveyor for the City of Calgary, and Connie works as a hostess and promoter for entertainment in the Ranchman's Inn in Calgary.

Fred Vandervaate farmed for a few years in the Rodino area, then went to work in the coal mines around Alexo and Drumheller. He met Helen Runge, of Delburne, who had three children, Claire, Donna and Wayne. After their marriage, three children were born - Faye, Melonie and Reagan. Later, they moved to Calgary, where Fred worked making cobblestone walks at the University. He had a life of hard work, passing away with cancer in 1980.



Henry and Rose Vandervaate, Connie and Reg in 1948.

Minniebelle married Robert (Harry) Ellwood. They farmed three miles east of the Vandervaate homeplace. They had two children, Robert, who died as a small child, and Beth, who married Sidney Cooper. They live at Bonnyville with their six children. Minnie and Harry Ellwood retired and moved to Mannville several years ago.

John Vandervaate farmed in the Willowview District for a few years. He met and married Joyce Paish of Slave Lake in 1938 while on a hunting trip in the north. He brought his bride to his farm, where they were blessed with six children. Donald died in a car accident in 1959; Shirley married Louis Senko of Shoal Creek district (near Barrhead); Gordon lives in Chisholm with his wife, Margaret, and three children; Frances and her husband and family live in Lloydminster; Robert and his wife and family live at Chisholm; and the youngest, Gladys, is married and lives in High Level. John and Joyce farmed until 1948, where they enjoyed their Jersey cows, race horses and many friends. When they moved, they made their home in Chisholm Mills, later in Fort Vermilion, where John succumbed to cancer and passed away in Edmonton.

Violet married William James Pocock (Ed) of Deloraine, Manitoba. Ed had come west to find work in the bush country, then the farming area south of Minburn. He enlisted in the Canadian Army, and their first son, Larry, was born while he was serving in World War 2. After the war was over, two more sons were born - William and Robert. Larry married Donna Zelisko of Mannville. They have a son and daughter. William married Elaine Rudd of Mannville and they have three children. Robert married Toni Hurst of Medicine Hat, and they have two children.

The Vandervaate boys were well-known as baseball players. Henry was a 'catcher' all his sporting years. He was floor-manager and bouncer at Rodino Hall, as long as he lived in the area.



Sarah, Tom, Shirley, Bradley, and Patricia Veenstra.

THE VEENSTRA'S

Tom and Sarah Veenstra moved to Canada from Leeuwarden Holland in 1962. They arrived in Montreal and then travelled by train across the country to Wainwright. At that time their only child Pat was three.

From Wainwright the family moved to Viking to live with Tom's brother Jim. They lived in Viking for only three months until Tom got a job as a hired man at the farm of Martin Creasy. He would be employed there until 1970.

In 1963 the family's second child came along. Shirley was born in Wainwright General Hospital on April 8th of that year. By 1965 their family was completed. Bradley was born on February 28th. Also in 1965 Pat started school and the family had settled into their new life in Canada.

All three Veenstra children attended public school in Irma. When Bradley turned five and started school the family moved into town. After a couple of moves they settled into the house where they live to this day.

Pat graduated from high school in 1977 and moved to Wainwright to work for East-Alta Co-op. It was here that she met her future husband Brian Rae, who was originally from the Irma district as well. They were married on July 28, 1979. From that union came a son, and Tom and Sarah have a grandson named Tyler.

After completing her school Shirley moved to Red Deer to work at Michener Centre. She has since moved a

little closer to home and now lives and works in Wainwright.

Bradley had followed in his father's footsteps, and is presently employed at Irma at Martin Creasy's.



Skating in December, 1962: Tom Veenstra, Kevin Creasy, Pat Veenstra, and Margaret Creasy.

JAMES VOROS FAMILY

by Hazel Voros

James Voros Sr. came to Cleveland, Ohio, from Hungary in 1905. Peter joined his brother a year later. In 1907 they sent for their mother and sister Nancy. Later they all came to Canada where mother and sons took homesteads.

James had married in Cleveland and brought wife and baby daughter Nancy with them. Baby Nancy died as an infant and was buried on the homestead.

James acquired more land near the homestead. Jim and Julia's family grew to five boys; Jim Jr., Louis, Frank, William and George. William passed away at an early age. The Voros children attended school at Lewisville and during the two years it was closed, Jim and Louis went to Strawberry Plains school.

In 1938 James and Julia with sons Louis and George went to Ontario to live. Julia died in 1947, but James Sr. is still living and is in his nineties. Frank died in July 1946 and George in June 1971. When Mrs. Rosa Voros and sister Nancy died they were buried in Wainwright.



1942 - Mr. and Mrs. James Voros, Sr.

JAMES VOROS JR.

by Hazel Voros

James Jr. married Hazel Mikesh in October 1938 and lived for three years on the farm previously occupied by his parents. They then moved to Hardisty. During the summer of 1942 Jim drove the cream truck route and in the winter he worked at the Army Camp being built at Wainwright at that time. From 1944-46 Jim spent in the Armed Service overseas. Brother George was in the Air Force.

In 1947 Jim accepted work with the C.P.R. in Hardisty and spent twelve years as a carman. In 1960 Jim and Hazel bought the Gerald Scott farm where they still make their home in summer.

Their family of six children: Joyce (Mrs. L. Beeton); Irene (Mrs. Kennedy); Dahl, Edwin and Calvin, and Corinne (Mrs. Allen Hittle) are all grown and married.



Jim and Hazel Voros.



Jim Voros children, Joyce, Irene, Dahl, Edwin, Calvin, and Corinne.

PETER VOROS FAMILY

by *Sophie Voros*

Peter Voros came to Canada in 1910 from Cleveland, Ohio. He homesteaded on the N.W. of section 34-44 W.4th, about eight miles from Fabyan, Alberta. The following year his brother, James, with wife and baby daughter, their mother, Rosa Voros, and their sister, Nancy, came to Canada.

In February, 1918, Peter and Sophie Stern of Edmonton, Alberta, were married at Wainwright, Alberta. Their three daughters: Vera, Margaret, and Rose went to the Lewisville school for their first grades, then on to Wainwright for high school and then to Edmonton for further education. Vera and Rose took business courses while Margaret took up nursing, and for some years was a stewardess for C.P.A.

Today Vera lives in Winnipeg, Margaret is in Edmonton and Rose lives in Calgary.

When we left the farm, we lived in Edmonton for a few years, then moved to Victoria, B.C. where Peter enjoyed his retirement with his bowling and other sports. He died in 1967, a great loss to me. He was a good husband and father. I have many good memories of our forty-nine and one half years together.

I now live with Vera in Winnipeg, in my 82nd year, and still find life exciting. I am able to keep busy.



Pete and Sophie Voros.

JOHN WAITE FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. John Waite owned a farm south of Jarrow where Gilbert Lovig later lived. Both were very active in the United Church. For years Mrs. Waite taught Sunday School and was a member of the Ladies' Aid. She was a very good public speaker and was well-known for her monologues and such at concerts. She also helped put on plays for entertainment after chicken suppers.

Mr. Waite was a community minded man. He was the weed inspector, was on the school board and was the chairman of the memorial park committee. Mr. Waite was also a member of the Masonic Lodge.

Their daughter married a minister Milton Bailey, who had come from the States. Mr. Bailey was the minister in Jarrow for awhile. The Waites had their granddaughter

live with them some.

When the Waites left Jarrow they moved to B.C. Both have passed on.



Mr. and Mrs. Waite and granddaughter - Vivian Bailey.

DORIS WAKEFIELD (ALLEN)

by *Doris Wakefield*

I was born in the Avonglen District at the home of my grandparents Jesse Allen residence N.W. 34-46-8. I attended Roseberry, Irma and Avonglen Schools. My first teacher being Mr. McClay.

I worked for Ballentines and Roy Miles before I was married. The wages at that time were very good at forty dollars a month.

There was a young girls' group called "Prairie Chicken W.I." which I was a member of for a short time. The first meeting I attended I believe was at Mrs. Annie Milne's residence. I enjoyed the club while I was attending.

I married Cliff Wakefield of the Battle Heights school district, north of Fabyan. We were married in the Irma United Church with Reverend Inglis performing the ceremony. That was a busy June and July for Irma with all the weddings. People were saying "It must be going to be a cold winter with all the weddings there are".

We purchased the Ed Bunderman house and moved it to the Wakefield residence on the N.W. 9-46-7 where we farmed with his parents Jim and Bessie Wakefield (nee Steele) until 1965 when we purchased the land from his mother.



Mary Buchanan, Alvin Wakefield, Agnes Buchanan, Cliff and Doris Wakefield.

We have three children: Alvin, Agnes and Mary; and four grandchildren. (Refer to Gerald Allen history).

We have been a very active family working together with sports and community activities of Passchendale area. One being the soft and hard ball club and attending different sports days in the communities. The girls played softball and Alvin hard ball, while Cliff coached boys ten and under. This was a treasure to behold.

The Christmas concert was my hi-light working with young people and seeing them grow up to be young ladies and men. With the help of Joy King, the Sew and So Club plus the children, we had some humorous and good concerts which now seem to be at a loss.

We are members of the Passchendale Community Association and Gay 90's Old Time Dance Club which takes us to different communities and towns as well as helping out in our community.

I am a member of the Battle River Women of Uniform, where we meet at one of the member's homes once a month.

Alvin is taking over the farm which will be the third generation to be farming this land. We are one of the fortunate ones to be able to live on the farm and have our grandchildren living close enough to us, so we can enjoy them and watch them growing up.

JIM AND ELIZABETH WAKEFIELD

Elizabeth or Bessie as she was known, came to Irma in the spring of 1907 with her parents William and Sarah Steele. She attended Roseberry school with her brothers after the school was built. Bessie was one of her father's right hand helpers. There was a lot of work to be done, land to improve and cattle to herd. At times they would pack a lunch and ride all day checking the herd. Bessie enjoyed outdoor life, liked milking cows and was very fond of young animals. She enjoyed her saddle horse and was a very good rider. She drove the horses on the drill, plow, binder and harrows.

Bessie married Jim Wakefield in September 1916 and they started their home in the Battle Heights district. The house is still standing. To this family were born ten children, two of them died in infancy. Bessie would take the children on the machinery, they had built a box so that it was transferrable and could be fastened on to whatever piece of machinery she had to work with that



Jim and Bessie Wakefield's 40th Anniversary in September, 1956. Woodie Clark, Bessie and Jim Wakefield, and Ina Knudson, Woodie Clark was Bessie and Ina's uncle.

day. Their children attended Battle Heights School. Jean was employed in the G.W.G. plant in Edmonton where she met and married Laverne Sim and to this family were born one daughter and five sons. Jean passed away in May of 1980. Muriel finished her education in Irma and chose teaching as her profession. She married George Harriman and they and their three daughters reside in Edmonton. Hazel attended Roseberry School for the latter part of her elementary school and took her high school in Irma and Wainwright. She passed away after a lengthy illness in February of 1949. Cliff attended Battle Heights School and then went farming with his dad as his dad wasn't well at the time. A few years later he spent one winter taking a course in Heavy Duty Mechanics. More on his family in the Doris Wakefield history. Keith finished his education in Wainwright High School, then attended Normal and taught at Orbindale and Avonglen Schools. He then entered University and received his Doctors Degree and studied his way to be a specialist in Orthopedics. He married Doreen Flescher and to this family were born three boys and twin girls. Keith lost his wife after a very lengthy illness in 1980. In 1983 he married Betty Cunningham and they are residing in Red Deer. Charles received his diploma in Wainwright and married Doris Lehr and they have four boys and two girls. Charles is employed at the Armed Forces Base at Camp Wainwright in Electrification and Refrigeration. Stan is residing in Red Deer. Marlene is married to John Schmidt, they have two boys. Marlene is employed at the Extended Care Complex at Claresholm, Alberta.

Jim and Bessie have passed away to a well earned rest, Jim in September 1963 and Bessie in May 1976. The family farm will be farmed by the third generation when their grandson Alvin begins farming in 1985.

ALFRED WALKER

In November, 1908 my mother, four sisters and my brother Charles and myself left Clarksburg, Ontario to come to Irma via Mannville. Then with John Watson's team of horses we went to Dad's homestead on the S.E. of Section 34 north of Irma, where there was a sod house. The other three-quarters had sod houses also. August Weinrich lived on the S.W. quarter, Will Harmon on the N.W. quarter, Baptist Wirth on the N.E. quarter and ours was the S.E. quarter. The near neighbors were Elliotts, John Watson, Cap Larson and Jim Kennedy. When we came in 1908, Mr. Swailes had the post office in his store and Henderson had the hotel. Art Ambler had a small building they used for a poolroom, and there were also about a dozen tents used for homes. They dug for water on the town side of the railway, but not enough water was found so the division went to Wainwright.

My youngest sister Alberta and my young brother Edward, were both born on the old homestead. We had many happy hours on the old place. My mother played the organ and friends came from near and far for a visit and a sing song.

My father and Mr. R. Harper built the Ross school. An early teacher was Ethel Anderson, also a Miss Davidson, who got lost in the hills going from Gale's place back to

Ambler's where she was staying. All of Irma came to look for her. A man in the valley brought her back. After a Miss Brown, Mabel McGrath, Bessy Brickman and then my mother taught two terms. I don't recall all who taught in Ross school before I left here. The first to go to the Ross school were Ben Ambler's girls Myrtle and Muriel, Dave Ambler's daughter Eva and brother Elwin; Ritchy Nash who Ben Ambler looked after. Jim Kennedy, Rick Larson, Mary and Lotty Gale, my sister Elizabeth and myself.

GEORGE ARTHUR WALKER - ONE HUNDRED YEARS

Born on Easter Sunday, March 28th, 1880, in Nanticoke, Ontario, George Arthur Walker was the youngest of seven -- three boys and four girls. He was raised and educated on the family farm in Sandusk where he was the instigator of many pranks. One Spring, at 'sugaring off' time, Art, his brothers and friends, unknown to their father, decided to have their own taffy pull in the Maple Grove. Unfortunately, the noise carried up to the house, and their father, thinking his pots were being raided, set the dog on them. Luckily, the dog refused to attack and after several tries, their dad realized the supposed thieves were his own sons having a little fun. Some rather sheepish looking lads were rounded up -- then served



George Arthur Walker celebrates 100th Birthday Friday March 28, 1980.

coffee and donuts in the Walker kitchen. ... Years later, Art, still a prankster at heart, was showing Burton's brother the city of Victoria. When they reached the Wax Museum, he bought the tickets at the door, passed them to Wallace and asked him to hand them to the girl in the booth. Not until he heard loud chuckling, did he realize the girl was a wax figure.

Families have a habit of growing up and leaving home and so it was with the Walkers. The girls, Lizze (Elizabeth), Eliza ('Liza), Mary Ann and Rose (Rosetta), married and raised their families close to the family home. John stayed on the farm with his wife and children, but Guy and Art migrated West. Guy settled on a farm near Vulcan, Alberta, and had two boys.

Now about Art, the youngest -- I'm sure he was spoiled by all his older brothers and sisters. At the age of twenty, in the year 1900, Art went west to a small town east of Winnipeg called Rat Portage and worked in a sawmill. Brother Guy at this time was building elevators in the summers and invited Art to help him. One winter Art worked on a C.P.R. bridge gang building snowsheds over the tracks in the mountains of British Columbia.

Having met Jane Beatty Shaw of Caledonia, Ontario, prior to leaving home, Art courted her by letter and in 1906 she came west to be married. At this time Art was employed by the Winnipeg Pane and Glass Company in Winnipeg. Two years later, Arthur Earl Walker was born and was such a beautiful baby, Jane and Arthur entered him in a baby contest -- he received honorable mention.

Tough times lay ahead -- Art was off work for a year suffering with rheumatism. The Doctor advised him to go further west to Alberta where the climate would be drier. Thus he staked a homestead at Irma, where his two daughters were born -- Irma Mabel (named after the town) and Ora Lila. Here, as well as breaking and farming his own land, Art found time to help his neighbors build their houses, barns, etc. One of these neighbors sold him a lot in Edmonton on which he built a three-story house and in 1912, he moved his family to the city. He spent forty years in this home and it is now an historical site.

Art was employed by the United Grain Growers in the summers and in the winter by various firms, such as Clarks and Cushing Bros. In 1917, wishing to spend more time at home with his wife and family, he applied for work at Gainers Packing Plant as a master mechanic. His first assignment was to rebuild their plant and offices which had been razed by fire.

Life has held some sad times for Art -- in 1921 Jenny died leaving him to keep house and look after his three children, which was no mean task. Every cloud has a silver lining and three years later he married Elizabeth Burton Roulston of Hagersville, Ontario. In 1927 Gordon Wallace Walker was born.

Through the years Burton and Art were always active in church work. For ten years Art was superintendent of Metropolitan United Church Sunday School which had an enrolment of five hundred. Also, their home was open to young people coming to the city to take high school, university, etc. During the war they had an English lad living with them for four years. Some of these have come from England, the United States to honor him.

Gradually his own family grew up and one by one left home. Earl graduated in Medicine and is now a well-known neuro-surgeon residing in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with his wife and three children. Mabel was a teacher and while on exchange in South Africa, met her husband, Henry Catlow, an engineer with Caltex. They have two girls and now live in Lake San Marcus, California. Ora was a stenographer and married Herbert Hollingsworth, a druggist. They have three boys and three girls and still live in Edmonton. Gordon graduated in Engineering, heads his own consulting firm and lives in Calgary with his wife Pat and two girls.

After working at Gainers for thirty years, Art retired -- but failed to look up the meaning of the word 'retire'. The next few years found him building a church hall for Knox United Church, a church hall and rectory for Holy Trinity Anglican Church, and being very instrumental in building Strathhearn United Church and their church hall which is now called "Walker Hall." Through the years, Art found time to build several houses for himself, family and friends.

For a time, Burton and Arthur spent their winters in Arizona and summers in Edmonton, and eventually retired in Victoria where again they became active in community and church work. They chose to join and attend Belmont United Church where they had found thoughtfulness, friendship and love. Burton and Arthur celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in November, 1974, here in this church hall. Burton died two years later at the age of ninety-two.

Victoria weather encourages outdoor sports and Art took up golfing, bowling and curling -- he has had his picture in the Victoria paper several times for participating in these sports. Last Wednesday, the Oak Bay Bowling Club held a tea in his honor and named a green after him.

Art now boasts of having thirteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

We wish to join with his family, relatives and friends in wishing Art a very happy 100th birthday.

Uncle Arthur speaks at the Belmont Congregational Turkey Dinner: Mr. Chairman and Friends, My first responsibility is to present these cheques ... given in honor of my hundred years, ... to the Belmont United Church. ... Would you like to know something of the customs and habits of the early days? Well, I'll just mention one or two. When I was a boy my father was a farmer. There were seven of us children in the family. He kept a general farm, cattle, sheep, hogs, hens -- and any other animals that belonged to the farm. ... The custom then was when there was no money available to buy, he would thresh out some wheat that he had grown the year before. He had cradled it in rows and put it in sheaves by hand and had put it in the mow and kept it for future use in the home. The custom then was to throw a few sheaves on the threshing floor and then work the wheat out with a flail. When he would get the grain separated from the straw, he would put it through a fanning mill to sift the kernels out of the chaff. When it was all cleaned up they would soak it for a couple of days and they would pound it with a stick on the platform to take the husks off the wheat. That was what we used to call 'cleaned wheat for

frumenty'. Frumenty was something Mother would prepare after the wheat was all cleaned. It was better than any porridge you would get today. Whole wheat kernels cooked was really enjoyable. It was common food in those days.

I said there was very little money. That's true. They didn't go to the store and buy one hundred dollars worth of goods but they bartered it all. Mother would gather the eggs from the hens and make the butter from the cream. By-the-way, did any of you ever see a dog churn? They were very common in those days. It was built on a sloped platform and it revolved. The dog wheel was attached to the churn. When the dog was put on the platform its weight would bring the platform down and that would turn the churn and the churn would go up and down. It was attached to the top pulley of the churn. It took about twenty minutes for the dog to churn that butter. Mother would take that butter and shape it into bricks ready for the market because she did not have any money, remember. When she went to the market she had both butter and eggs to trade or barter for the groceries she required.

I want to tell you a story: Mother always put me in mind of a certain lady. She lost her husband but she was left a little fortune. She invested that fortune in a chicken ranch. That chicken ranch paid off wonderfully well. She knew every angle of it right from the egg to the potpie. There was an Englishman right across the road from her and he one day said to her, "Tell me, is it proper to say a hen is 'setting' or a hen is 'sitting'?" "Well," said the lady, "I never gave that very much thought, but what concerns me most is when a hen is cackling whether she 'laid' or whether she 'lied'." I might tell you that I had a wonderful hundred years. I've enjoyed my family more than anyone could possibly believe. They're a wonderful family. Everyone of them loves and respects each other, and that is the secret of a happy home. And that's the conditions under which I lived for the last hundred years -- well forty at any rate. I wanted to introduce them to you but I don't know how so I've asked a friend of mine to do it.

Art Walker, at this time, is one hundred and three years old and still living in his own home in Victoria. He is in a wheelchair and his hearing and eyesight have failed. He is still happy and is looked after by his grandson, Ken Hollingsworth, who attends university.

W.E. WALKER

by Alfred Walker

Mr. William Edward Walker was born in Clarksburg, Ontario. He was a carpenter and cabinet maker by trade. Mrs. Walker came from Michigan. The Walker family came to Alberta in 1908. As this was before the railway was completed through what is Irma, they, like many others, came to Mannville. Mr. Walker's homestead was the S.E. 34-46-9.

To start out for the homestead with a family consisting of Arlene, who in later years became Mrs. Vern Peterson, Charlie, Alfred, Elizabeth, Anna and Maudie (later Mrs. G. Hurst) was no small feat.

Sometime later Alberta and Edward Ashley (Bud) were

added to the family. Alfred recalls his dad wasn't the farmer type, a "rolling stone" as they had moved somewhat before coming to Alberta, Alfred having been born in Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Walker was a teacher as well as being on hand in many cases as a midwife.

After sometime on the homestead Mr. Walker got the wanderlust and travelled to Australia where he remained for twelve years.

During his absence the stock and machinery were sold, except for a team Alfred says no one wanted.

In those days one could make a deal to break horses to harness, so with borrowed machinery and these newly trained horses Alfred carried on farming and baching for twelve years.

In the meantime his mother and members of the family moved to Hughenden where she operated a restaurant.

Sometime later Mrs. Walker rented an old nurse's home and operated a rooming house in Edmonton.

When Mr. Walker returned from Australia, Alfred remembers his dad farming a portion of land for two years. He later lived in Irma.

With the glowing stories Mr. Walker told of the paradise to be found in Australia, Alfred went out there in 1940. He worked for farmers, in the sugar cane fields in particular. He also acquired property for timber cutting which consisted of Ebony, Mahogany and Eucalyptus trees. He lived, while married, in Townsville, Queensland for fifteen years. He also worked eighty miles from Brisbane in the Lamington National Park.

His brother Charlie managed a flour mill in the United States for sometime, farmed at Carstairs, Alberta and for several years farmed in the Strawberry Plains district.

Elizabeth Field at present lives at Cochrane, Bud in the Okanogan, Anna and husband in Calgary, Maudie and Jerry in Edmonton and Alberta in Edmonton.

Mrs. Walker's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Preston were also homesteaders who later had the first restaurant in Irma, a two-storey building that John Watson had built for a feed mill. Granny Preston rented the building, had rooms for rent upstairs and the dining room below.

Alfred has been back in Irma since 1980. He misses his friends in Australia, misses the tropics but is enjoying very good health. He can still enjoy a game of pool at the Drop-In Center. He loves to reminisce and being musically inclined like many of his family can while away the cold days with playing the violin or other instruments.

WILLIAM WALKER FAMILY

William Walker, with wife Nettie, and three daughters, Jane (more commonly called Jean), Annie and Margaret, came to Irma in June, 1918.

Mr. Walker worked for G.A. Sisson for some time. Later he worked as manager for J.G. Clark of Clark Manor. In 1923 he moved to the Roseberry district to take up farming on his own on what was then known as the Waterton farm, just south of Roseberry School.

In the meantime three sons were born, Murray, William (Bill) and James (Jim).

Mr. Walker served on the school board for several years. He also coached the local hockey team and assisted



Fenton Nash and Jimmy Kennedy with the Walker family.

at all times at the school, setting up scenery etc. for the young people's "Good Time Club".

Mrs. Walker also helped out in many concerts with her solos. She passed away in July, 1933.

Jean Walker married Clark Steele and farmed in Crescent Hill district till his death in 1952. She now resides in Calgary.

Annie Johnson lives with her son in the Camrose district.

Margaret Allen makes her home in Wainwright.

Murray Walker joined the Air Force. He later lived in Kinsella till his death.

William Walker Jr. (Bill) has made his home in Mannville, since the early fifties.

Jim makes his home in Calgary. He also served in the Army in the second war.

W. Walker Sr. moved to Calgary in 1940 and worked in Ogden Shops as a gun inspector during the war, where he met and married the present Mrs. Jean Walker. He was also a building inspector for the city before he retired. He passed away in November, 1970.



Ruby Meyers and Alberta Walker.

GEORGE WARK

from memory of Ernie Rae

When Jack Rae and Bert Clelland came west in 1908 they rented a railway car to bring their settlers' effects. Hiding in the car to save fare, were George Wark, Herb Campbell and Leonard Davis. Upon reaching Winnipeg they met Fred Pyle who had brought a carload of horses from Alberta to be sold. He, too joined the stowaways in the boxcar, making two legal passengers and four illegal to Edmonton.

Jack and Bert drove to the Albert district and George Wark followed in 1909. George homesteaded N.W. 32-47-9-W4th now owned by Fords. He built a sod shack on his land. To supplement his income he went to the bush to work one winter. He had the misfortune to get his leg caught in some poles and broke it. So much for bush work!

George was noted for sowing his wild oats. He made lots of moonshine - not an unusual happening of those days. His neighbors saved him from prosecution several times by covering up for him. He thought the easiest way to obtain horses to work was to steal them, but spent three months in jail for this misdemeanor.

One winter Jack Rae took his family and whatever they needed back east. Upon returning to their homestead they found everything had been stolen from their house. Jack knew where to look for his possessions and told George to return the stolen goods. This George did with more besides. Then Mr. Rae was very uncomfortable because he was afraid people would think he had stolen things.



George Wark, 1920.

One time Jack Rae lost a horse and Bert Clelland a cow. The two friends set out on horseback to find their animals eventually ending up at George Wark's. He hospitably asked them to stay for dinner. Upon being asked about the horse and cow he told them they'd likely find the horse but not the cow. He later told Jack that they had eaten a roast from that cow for dinner.

It is said that one time he helped a neighbor butcher three pigs. The pigs were then hung outside overnight to cool properly. In the morning the pigs had disappeared. Guess who got them?

George married Lottie Parriot, but he and his mother-

in-law didn't agree. Lottie died when their first child was born. People by the name of Wilson raised the baby.

Eventually he returned to Quebec where he married again. The Raes heard that his second wife had straightened him out.

JOHN AND ELIZABETH WATSON

by niece Christena Cameron (Leak)

John Watson was born in Ontario in 1870 and came to homestead north of Irma in 1906. He is credited with being the man who turned the first sod in this district. He had great physical strength and made a fine pioneer.

From 1908 to 1911 he operated a feed mill in Irma. He was also the first Massey Harris agent in this district. In 1915 he married Elizabeth Jenkins.

Elizabeth Jenkins came from Ballymena, Northern Ireland to Toronto in 1906. Her brother, William Jenkins had immigrated earlier and was employed in Toronto. He was living with relatives and when Elizabeth arrived she visited there for a time before finding employment as housekeeper with a Toronto family.

In due course her sister, Sarah Jenkins arrived from Ireland to join Elizabeth in Toronto. Eventually their brother William decided to go West, where he took a homestead near Jarrow, Alberta. It wasn't too long before his two sisters followed him to the homestead. It was here that Sarah met and married Samuel Cameron, and in 1915 Elizabeth met and married John Watson. The home John and Elizabeth made together will long be remembered for its hospitality.

John Watson and his father farmed the old family farm situated six miles north of Irma, Alberta. Mr. Watson senior was a veteran of the Boer War and lived with the John Watsons to a ripe old age. Mrs. Watson senior passed away around 1908 and was buried on the farm.

Elizabeth and John lived happily in spite of hard times, coping with whatever fate handed out to them. Their home was a centre of hospitality to friends and neighbors from far and wide. I, their niece, can testify that never



John and Elizabeth Watson.

was there a better place to go and be completely spoiled during summer holidays than at Aunt Lizzie's and Uncle John's. There were lots of good things to eat, including homemade ice cream and I could ride old 'Pinto' over to visit the Archibalds and Selstedts. Each summer they gave a picnic on the farm for the neighboring children, who were of course accompanied by the parents. It was a day for socializing for the parents and fun and games for the kids.

Allen Anderson, a neighbor's boy, lived with the Watsons for a few years during a time when his mother was ill. Having no children of their own, they thoroughly enjoyed having this little tow-headed boy around.

Upon their retirement the Watsons sold their farm to Charlie Archibald and moved into Irma where they lived for awhile, later moving to Burnaby, B.C. In 1949 Elizabeth passed away suddenly at the age of 78. John then sold his home in Burnaby and returned to Irma, where he lived with friends until his death a few years later.

THE WEBB FAMILY

by Murle Larson

Marie Webb and her six children came to make their home in the Irma district in the late 1950's, after an unsuccessful marriage. Marie found it necessary to take her children and start a new life.

They lived with Mrs. Renwick for a time, where the children attended school in Irma, and the Alliance Sunday school. The first time I met the children was when Mr. Masson picked them up for Sunday school.

When Marie started out in a new life they brought nothing with them, only Marie and her children. Being of a true pioneer spirit and wanting to support her family, she started working out among neighbors, doing any kind of work from stooking, doing chores, picking chickens or anything that came her way.

For wages she would take a few chickens, a calf or a pig. Eventually she had a few animals, then they moved to Bert Clelland's farm N.E. 12-47-9-W4th where they lived until 1958. They then moved a little farther north to S.E. 14-47-9-W4th known as the Pete Larson farm. The stock increased till she had quite a herd of milk cows, pigs and chickens and she always raised a large garden.

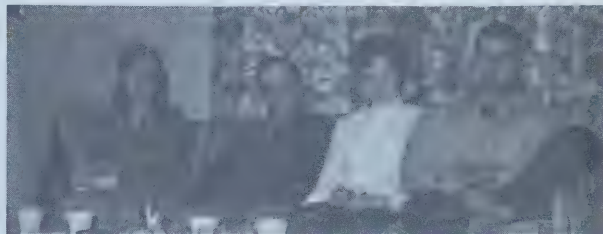
Marie was a great lover of dogs and owned purebred dogs. She had one of the best trained dogs I have ever seen. The children could empty the wastepaper basket on the floor and the dog would pick up every scrap of paper. I have seen Marie gather the eggs, give the pail to the dog and she would take it to the house. Marie could also give the dog a half pail of milk and she would take it to the house. This was a purebred dog Inga by name and she was just as protective of the children and a great help with the stock.

They all worked very hard but gradually things became a little easier for them. The youngsters were growing up and a great help to their mother.

In 1961 or 62 Marie married Bert Clisdale and they continued living on the Pete Larson farm for a couple of years, then Bert purchased the McRoberts farm S.E. 23-47-9-W4th. This couple and their family continued to



Marie with Marilyn and Isabell.



Madge, Jimmy, Valerie and Gordie Perron.



Lilly, George and Linda Webb.

build up their milking herd to some twenty head of Holstein milk cows, as well as range cows. The milking was done by hand until the last three years when they bought a milking machine to make things easier.

Three more children were added to the family, Marilyn, Robert and Isabell. These children were greatly loved by their older brothers and sisters.

When the youngest child was three months old, Marie died after a few days illness of a heart attack. What a shock to family and friends! I can say of Marie, no matter how much work she had to do at home, she always had time to help a neighbor. She was known for her great love for her family and animals.

Bert continued on the farm for awhile but found it impossible to carry on alone. He moved to Airdrie where he later married and still lives there with the three younger children.

Madge, the eldest, graduated from high school in Irma and is now married and living in Edmonton. They have three children and a little foster child Madge takes care of.

Jimmy worked for different farmers in the district, eventually going to Edmonton. Jimmy is married and he and his wife Germaine take care of an apartment building.

Lilly married Stanley Teers and also lives in Edmonton where Stan has a trucking business.

Valerie married Gordon Perron. They resided in Edgerton and had two boys. Valerie passed away in February, 1983.

George also took his schooling in Irma and graduated from grade twelve, then went to the city and took a welding course. George does a lot of work in the north country, but makes his home in Edmonton.

Linda took her grade eleven in Irma, went to Edgerton for grade twelve. She then took a nurses' training course and worked at Glenrose Hospital for a number of years.

Linda married Jerry Bortelotto and they live in California where Jerry does carpenter work and Linda is furthering her nurses' training. They have two lovely children, Joey and Marie.

HARRY WEBSDALE

by Archie Fleming

Harry was from England and had been in the South African War. He was in charge of getting the meat for the soldiers. The meat had to be away before the sun came up because then the desert became alive with flies and bugs. He was also in World War One. When the war was over he settled on N.E. 16-48-9. He told me when he came to Manitoba he worked on a farm and didn't know anything about skunks. He was dressed up in a suit ready to leave the place when the lady of the house came in and said there was a skunk in the hen house. Harry said, "I'll soon put him out." So he got a stick and put the skunk out, but he ruined his suit.

PATRICIA (ENGER) WELGUZ

I was born in the Irma area in 1935. I took all of my schooling in Irma. While attending school I delivered the Edmonton Journal and Bulletin. I also did chores for the



Welguz Family Dale and his wife Brenda, Charlene and her husband Darrell, Karen, Ernest and Patricia.

Club Cafe. After leaving school I worked for some time at the Wainwright and Viking hospitals. When the Hotel opened in Irma I worked for a period of time with Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Mikkelsen.

I left the hotel work and moved to Edmonton to work for Woodward's Department store at Westmount. I worked in the stationery department for several years and found this work very interesting.

In 1958 I married Ernest Welguz. Our wedding was in the Irma United Church and Rev. Inglis conducted the ceremony. Ernie is an electrician for the Provincial Gov't. We have lived in Edmonton since our marriage.

We have three children and they are all living and working in Edmonton. Charlene, our oldest daughter is a Flight Attendant for Pacific Western Airlines. She married Darrell Park, a geologist, on May 7, 1983. Karen, our second oldest daughter, is working for Delliott Haskins and Sells, a charter accounting firm. She is planning a career as a fashion designer. Dale, our youngest, was very active with the Symphonic Bands of Edmonton. He went with the Symphonic Band to England and Wales when he was 12 years old. He played in a concert hall in both London and Wales. Quite an experience for a twelve year old. He married Brenda Monson on February 20, 1982 and is presently employed with the Provincial Gov't.

At present I am enjoying the freedom from child rearing and not having the pressures of the work-a-day world.

AUGUST WEINRICH

from memory of Ernie Rae

When August Weinrich first came to this country he settled on N.W. 27-47-10-W4th near where Ollie Hollar lived. In time he homesteaded S.W. 34-46-9-W4th where Jack McFadden lived later.

Mrs. Cap Larson took care of Mrs. Weinrich when their first child was born, but as was common in those days, the mother died.

August had a well-boring machine that was horse-powered digging a two foot hole. He bored a seventy foot well for Jack Rae which provided lots of good, but hard water.

He later moved north and married a young girl for whom it is said he traded a plow. They raised a large family in the Athabasca area and did very well financially. August lived to be an old man but nothing has been heard of the family for years.

WEISE FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand (known as Frank) and Florence Weise came to the Irma district as newlyweds in 1918. They bought a quarter section of C.P.R. land south of town. They moved there in a cook car pulled by a steam engine. They lived in the cook car and broke the land with the steam engine. In the summer Frank farmed and in the winter he worked at the roundhouse for the railroad in Wainwright. They built a three-room house on the land, but could not get suitable water, so they

bought land from Rubenoks - one mile east of where they were living. They moved the three-roomed house, put a full cement basement under it, and added two rooms. The old log homestead house was still there which they left for hired help to sleep in. They had five children before they moved, two boys died at birth and two girls and one boy were left, Anne, Amy and Leo, I am Amy. I was about four years old when we built the new house. I remember picking up a brace and bit one day and trying it out on the new floor. That hole always stayed in the floor as we never had floor coverings.

My father farmed with horses and I used to like to go to the fields and ride on the machinery.

We lived one mile south of Strawberry Plains school where we took our first nine grades. The Johnstons, Lawrence and Ivan were about the same age as Leo and I, and we used to walk to school together.

My father had an Allis Chalmers tractor and a threshing machine with which he used to thresh grain for ourselves and other people.

My father raised cattle and hogs as well as horses. My mother raised chickens. We had pork and beef in the winter, and in the summer we had chicken and canned pork or beef. We always had a big garden and canned lots of vegetables, fruit and wild saskatoons and raspberries. How we hated to pick that wild fruit. Chokecherries and pincherries made jam or jelly and it sure did taste good in the wintertime.

When my older sister Anne graduated from High School she trained to be a nurse. She graduated from Providence hospital in Seattle. She married there and has lived in the area since then. She has two sons. Bobby the oldest, is still home and works on the dairy farm with his folks. Rick the youngest, lives in Sandy, Utah, where he is married, with one daughter. He works with computers.

I went to Edmonton Normal School in 1942. After teaching six months, I joined the Air Force. I then went to U. of A. and got my B.Sc. Degree in Home Economics. I taught school from nursery to adults most of my life. I have a daughter, Evelyn Munroe, who lives here with me. She is a hairdresser and has a son Frank, who is eleven. I lived most of my life in Southern California and moved to Southern Utah in 1977.

When my brother Leo got old enough to farm, Daddy bought a rubber tired tractor and he farmed with it and went to school and they retired the horses. When Leo passed away in 1946, Daddy rented the farm and moved to Wainwright. They had some rental houses there that Daddy looked after and Mom had a big garden and a beautiful yard that kept her busy. They lived there until my father passed away in 1967. Then my mother moved to Chilliwack, B.C. We moved there in December, 1969 to be near her and she passed away in 1973. I was glad that I was able to be close to her for the last three years of her life, since most of my life I had lived so far away.

PAUL WEISSER FAMILY

by Olinda Larson

In April of 1945 Paul J. Weisser came to Irma and district as a Rawleigh dealer. He stayed at Long's Rooming House. In August Paul moved his wife Bertha



Paul and Bertha Weisser and family.

and their family from Calgary, daughters, Olinda, Violet, Rose, Verna and Irene. Sons Alfred and Raymond came in the boxcar with the furniture and cows. They moved into the old Bakery next door to Pond's Cafe. After some renovating, they had crowded but comfortable home. Paul continued on his Rawleigh route. Olinda took in some sewing, later Violet ran the egg grading station, the rest of the children went to the Irma School.

In fall Paul rented a barn from Mrs. Hockett for their cows. On the evenings when Paul was home he would play the organ and the rest of the family would enjoy singing.

Paul and Bertha loved to play cards with friends at home or would go to card parties.

In November Olinda married Clarence I. Larson of Irma, son of Carl and Alma Larson. The wedding was in the Irma United Church, Reverend Inglis was the minister. A small reception was held at the home of the bride and a dance was held in the Irma Hall. They rented two rooms upstairs in Dr. Greenburg's house, for a home.

In January Paul's brother Ernest in the U.S. Army, came on leave from Germany. In June Olinda and Clarence moved to Embarass west of Edson. That summer Verna went to work for Eileen Hubman, and Irene for Wilma Robertson.

In early fall Arthur Heth of Viking came to Irma and stayed with the Weisser's.

In fall Paul, Bertha and Arthur Heth went to visit Olinda and Clarence while there did some big game hunting, but had no luck as there was no snow.



Paul Weisser with his Rawleigh vehicles.

Bertha was babysitting Esther Petersen's son Albert, while Esther worked at the Co-op store. Olinda and Clarence came home just before Christmas and helped the rest of the family give Paul and Bertha a surprise party for their 25th Anniversary. It was a real surprise as their anniversary was December 29. That fall Paul got the loan of a team of horses from Ernest Brink. He built an enclosure on the back of a sleigh, and continued his Rawleigh route, spending many a night away from home.

Rose worked for Mrs. Brenda Hewett, as a telephone operator. The pay was not much but it was good experience.

Then Paul discontinued the Rawleigh route as supplies were hard to get, so started to do carpenter work. With Raymond's help he did some work for Bill Hubman, and Les Robertson.

In April Arthur Heth went to Vancouver looking for work, was lucky and went to work as a Longshoreman, which he is still doing. He sent word back for Paul and Raymond to come as there was plenty of carpenter work. In June Violet and Rose went to B.C. to pick berries. That summer their first grandchild was born. In fall Paul returned to get the rest of the family. They sold some of the household effects that were too bulky to take. They left Irma in October of 1947.

Paul and Bertha moved to Edson in 1953, where Paul passed away June of 1977. Bertha lives in an apartment in Edson.

Olinda and Clarence live in Edson. They have two sons and two daughters also four grandchildren. Clarence works for the Dept. of Transportation.

Violet and Arthur Heth live in Vancouver, B.C. They have one son and two daughters and six grandchildren. Arthur is still longshoring.

Raymond and Hilma live in Edson and have one son and two daughters and three grandchildren. Raymond is still doing carpenter work.

Rose and Maurice Bourden live at 70 Mile House, B.C. They have two sons and one daughter, Maurice works in a plywood mill.

Verna and Richard Ramisch live in Edson and have four girls and eleven grandchildren. Richard works for the Dept. of Transportation, and Verna works at St. John's Hospital.

Irene and Douglas Jones live at Forest Grove, B.C. on a ranch. They have three sons and five grandchildren. Douglas works for the Block Brothers at the 108 Ranch.

Alfred and Anita live in Edson and have two sons and two daughters and two grandchildren. Alfred is a Business Agent for the carpenters' Union with Anita's help.

GLEN WELCH FAMILY

Glen and Virginia Welch left the shelter of the Rocky Mountains in southern Alberta November 28th, 1963, to move their family north. They settled on the old Smogard farm, five miles north of Kinsella, farming for several years. They are parents to six children, proud grandparents to fourteen.

Their oldest daughter, Glenda Virginia, Mrs. Blaine Campbell, already married and living in Calgary when

the family moved, is the mother of three. Two girls and a boy, Boyd Calvin, Bonnie Lynn and Kary Ann, now living in Hillspring, Alberta.

Their son, Russel Edward, better known as Ted, was working on a ranch near Lloydminster, Saskatchewan where he met and married Marilyn Hope. They had two boys, Cameron Edward and Chad Owen. After separating Marilyn and boys are now residing in Orillia, Ontario. Ted is remarried to Elizabeth Monahan of Viking, mother of Tami and Patrick.

Robert Glen Welch remained south to finish a year of school before joining the family and graduating in Viking High School. He married Wynne Johnston August 11th, 1967 and has two boys, Robert Lance and Justin Ross. For approximately eight years Bob worked for Alberta Forest Services located at various stations, mainly Slave Lake. In 1974 they purchased the Kinsella Hotel from Curly Loades. After a short separation they were divorced and in October of 1978 Bob was remarried to Shirley Brendle of Maidstone, Saskatchewan. They now live fourteen miles north of Wainwright with their two adopted children, Tracey Lea and Shelden Wayne. Bob is manager of Falcon Enterprises in Wainwright, making good use of his carpentry and teaching skills.

Jack Owen completed school in Viking, Alberta, receiving various awards for athletic achievements; graduating in 1969. For three years Jack tried his hand at different lumber and pipeline jobs before settling at the University Ranch by Kinsella where he has now worked for ten years. He is well-known in the community for his horsemanship abilities. Jack was engaged to Joan Allers at Christmas in 1979. Joan is active on the Kinsella Cobra's ball team where she plays as pitcher.

Henry Edmund, or Hank to most, went to school in Viking and like Jack received awards excelling in school sports. After school Hank worked pipelines in Northern and Central Alberta. In 1974 on a visit to Hillspring he met Linda French, Glen's babysitter. They were married in November, 1978 and now have two boys, Jeremy Wayne and Jesse Raymond. Linda plays on the ladies' softball team and had an active part in the Kinsella parade at Homecoming 1980.

Deborah Gayle, the youngest of Glen and Virginia's children, is a real horse enthusiast, and as a youngster participated in local gymkhanas. In May of 1974 she married Mr. Eldon Gile of Eugene, Oregon. They bought and managed the Kinsella store for two years before turning it over to Glen and Virginia to manage. They now raise registered quarter horses on a small acreage one mile north of Kinsella with their two children, Bradley Clayton and Becky Lee.

Glen and Virginia helped manage the hotel and restaurant with son Bob and found the variety of friends most interesting and rewarding. When Deb and Eldon started their family, Virginia took over running the corner store. "Welch's Lucky Dollar" became the popular coffee nook and a prosperous little business.

The Welch family is well-known for their closeness. Glen has played both basketball and softball with his sons for several years. Glen, the senior on both teams says repeatedly that it's time to retire. The boys will agree only when he completes a season with no home runs. At

fifty-five he's still going strong.

Virginia has been active in the ladies' clubs in Kinsella since her arrival. She is highly praised for her quilting and sewing abilities and has given the girls several pointers on setting up and finishing quilts. She too has played an active part in the family's sports activities and has been known to belt her share of home runs.

In September of 1980 Glen and Virginia moved to Irma, Alberta, but are still active in the Kinsella community.

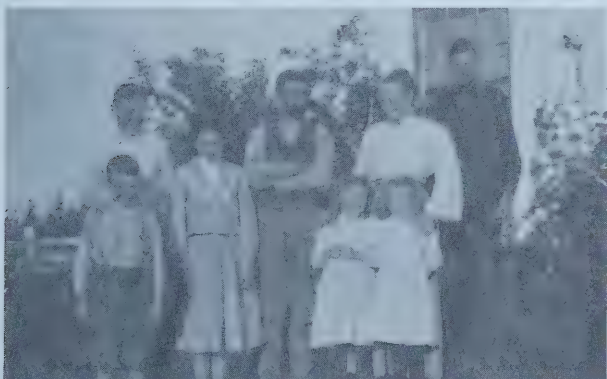
WHIDDEN FAMILIES

by M. Smith

David Whidden and his sons, Harold and Aubrey, first came to Alberta on a work excursion from Folly Village, Nova Scotia about 1906. They worked here in the summer and fall. Mr. Whidden would go back home in the wintertime.

In 1907 or 1908, he homesteaded S.W. 28-10-4 about three and one half miles north of Jarrow and brought the rest of his family out west - Mrs. Rebecca Whidden, Tina, Karl and the twins Ruth and Ruby.

In the years to come Mr. and Mrs. Whidden were both active members in the Church and Sunday School in the district, and very good neighbors.



David Whidden family, 1906. Back Row: Aubrey, Tina, Mr. Whidden, Mrs. Whidden, Harold. Front Row: Karl, Ruth, Ruby.

Tina married Carl Ahlf and lived in the Batt District where five of their six children were raised, until they decided to move to Edson and homestead. There Tina got correspondence lessons and taught her children the remainder of their schooling.

Karl also moved to Edson, married and had one son.

The twins married brothers, Ruth to Howard Robinson and Ruby to Percy Robinson. Ruth had one son Philip and Ruby had one daughter, Audrey. Ruby and Audrey both live in Westlock. The Robinsons all moved to Dapp and homesteaded there, but Howard and Ruth soon moved to Pine City, Minnesota, where the Robinsons came from.

Aubrey worked various places and helped at home also. He joined the Army and went overseas in World War I and served some time in France. Later he came home and helped his father on the farm.



Mr. and Mrs. David Whidden and Aubrey.

Aubrey worked various places and helped at home also. He joined the Army and went overseas in World War I and served some time in France. Later he came home and helped his father on the farm.

After Harold came west in 1906 he spent some time working with his uncle, Herbert Gray, building in Strathcona, South Edmonton. In the wintertime he would go logging in the bush west of Edmonton. In 1907 or 1908, he, along with his father and uncle, took homesteads north of Jarrow.

He worked for Jim Lennox, Sam Murray and Mr. Pickard for a few years while clearing and breaking land on his homestead.

In 1915 Harold married Florence Whitford and they built their house and barn on the farm, N.W. 28-10-4 always working together. Florence helped with the field work, milked cows, gardened and whatever needed doing. She did all this along with raising a family of six, three girls and three boys.

Harold used to take his team and wagon loaded with wheat, go to Strome and get it ground into flour for the coming year. Later he took it to Vermilion. Sometimes it took three or four days.

At one time in the late 1920's, the Whiddens and their



Four generations at Lynn and Brad McKee's wedding in 1979. Back Row: Bert, Jean, Bradley, Lynn, Mr. and Mrs. Whidden. Seated: Tobe and Margaret Smith.

neighbors had to get out and fight a big prairie fire that had started along the railroad tracks and worked its way north and east towards their homes. However, all homes were safely guarded. In the next few years to come there were some very good raspberry patches, where the brush had been burnt and the new growth came up.

The Whidden children all got their public schooling at Batt and later went to either Jarrow, Kinsella or Irma for their high school.

The Whiddens were active in Church, Sunday School and community affairs.

Margaret, the eldest daughter, married Tobe Smith in 1939. They had two sons, Bert and Todd and one daughter, Faye.

Jean married Roy Fuder in 1941 and they had one daughter, Marcla and one son, Murray. They have all made their homes in Ottawa.

Gordon, the eldest son, spent some time in England during World War II then came home and married Helen Pendleton (nee Knudson) in 1946. They had two daughters, Gail (Mrs. Charles Ahlf) of Edmonton, and Laura (Mrs. Francis Blue) of Hardisty. Gordon passed away suddenly in 1951.

Harold married Wyonne Rude in 1948. They had two sons, Lee and Loren and one daughter, Coleen. They are all farming in the Czar and Amisk area.

Dorothy married Merle Knudson in 1946. They had one daughter, Iona (Mrs. Norman Froelich) of Sherwood Park and one son, Lyle of Red Deer. Merle passed away several years later. Dorothy is now Mrs. Brooks Lysons of New Norway.



Harold Jr., Harold, Margaret, Alwyn, Jean Gordon, Florence, Dorothy Whidden.

Alwyn married his brother's widow and lives on the family farm.

Harold and Florence continued to live in the same house, building on additions to accommodate the family. In 1980 the family gathered to celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary. Poor health in the spring of 1980 made it necessary for Mr. Whidden to go into the Parkland Nursing Home, in Viking. Mrs. Whidden continues to live in the old home on the farm and still manages with Alwyn's help. Mr. Harold Whidden passed away on July 3, 1982.



Clifton White family in 1982. Left to Right: Carolyn Clifton, Heather, Duane, Melanie, Michelle.

CLIFTON WHITE FAMILY

Clifton was born in Viking on November 7, 1941, the second son of Laurence and Ruth White. He was raised on the family farm and received his education at Jarrow until grade eight and completed his high school in Irma. He then went to the University of Alberta, worked for Keith Coffin and in October 1962 he started with the Alberta Wheat Pool at Irma as second man under Ole Nissen.

I, Carolyn was born April 11, 1947, the eldest child of George and Ruth Cochrane of Coronation (now of Stettler). I have a brother Linden and a sister Beth MacGougan both of Coronation. I acquired my schooling at Lucerne, a one room school and at Coronation. After graduation I worked at Armstrong's Electric in Stettler.

In March, 1964 Clifton received his first elevator posting at Federal. We met while painting the Federal Hall. I often wonder if the romance had anything to do with me being the "bosses daughter", as my dad was Wheat Pool delegate at the time. In June, 1965 the Pool moved Clifton to Ribstone. We were married August 20th, 1966 in the Trinity United Church in Coronation. While in Ribstone the elevator burned July 10th, 1968. The Alberta Wheat Pool sent us to Eaglesham in the Peace River country for the month of October. Heather Ruth, our eldest daughter, was born in Wainwright on November 7, 1969, a birthday present for her dad.

In August, 1970, Clifton was promoted to Chauvin and also became agent for Co-op Insurance. The move gave us a "brand new" Wheat Pool house to live in. Our son, Duane Clifton, was Provost's 1973 New Year's baby, born January 4. On January 22, 1975 Melanie Lynn, our second daughter, became Grandpa Cochrane's birthday present. She was also born in Provost. While in Ribstone and Chauvin Clifton did a lot of curling. The last year we were there he curled in thirteen bonspiels as well as the regular draw.

After dealing with farmers for fifteen years, we figured they had the good life and decided to join them full time. Clifton had been part time farming since before we were married. We started building a house and in August, 1977 we moved five miles west of Irma, N.W. 35-45-10-W4.

Our move was a real pioneering experience, as we lived in the basement of the new house for four months with very few of town life's conveniences. Our 1978 Christmas present was Michelle Noelle, our youngest daughter, born December 5, in Viking.

Clifton farms ten quarters of land of which one is rented from his great aunt Carrie Micheal, two were C.P.R., two were open range and five were homesteaded. The S.W. 12-46-10-W4 was homesteaded by a Mr. Danger. Section 2-46-10-W4 was all homestead land with Charles White homesteading the northwest quarter. Mr. Dewar homesteaded the southwest, Billy Jenkins homesteaded the northeast and Harry Carter homesteaded the southeast. The Whites were not related but Mrs. Charles White was Clifton's Grandad Meakins sister, Annie. They returned to Ottawa where they lived until they passed away. Their two children, Edith and Jack still live in Ottawa. Clifton's brother, Gordon, now owns the White and the Dewar quarter where their parents Laurence and Ruth White lived. Laurence and Ruth now live in Irma.

Gordon married Sheila Ballard of Black Diamond, Alberta and they live in Edmonton. They have two teenage sons, Cameron and Anthony.

We have really enjoyed living and working with the people of the communities in which we have lived. We find the farm and Irma community a good place to raise our family.



Threshing at Whites, Gordon Meakin's machine, Lawrence White and Buster Lingley.

THE FRED WHITE FAMILY

by Frances White Prosser

Colorful placards called it the land of milk and honey! My father, Fred Sinkey White first came to Alberta in 1910. Apparently he liked what he saw, he filed on a homestead and later a pre-emption. Ella Hilda Martin and he had married in 1903. They had two children and a comfortable home in Lawton, Iowa, U.S.A.

Dad brought his settlers' effects all the long miles by rail to Alsask in 1911. Our land was one mile east of Oyen (only the town wasn't there yet). Dad built a house, barn etc. Mother, Gladys seven, and Gordon three, came to Canada in January, 1912. Iowa's climate was mild and Mother said that Winnipeg (where they stayed overnight) was unbearably cold. There wasn't anyone they knew and



Evelyn, Fred, Gladys, Ella and Lawrence White.

it was very lonely. In due time the railroad, C.N. came right past our farm. The town flourished, a school was built and neighbors came. Frances, Laurence and Evelyn were born. As we were there so early we got to know people as they came. We attended the Oyen school.

All pioneers have hardships but they were doubled when the Great Depression of the thirties came the same time as the drought. One, unless one saw them, has no idea how devastating dust storms are. One's crops were blown away along with the soil; fence posts were covered over. Oyen was prairie, the same winds blew uninhibited in the winter. These blizzards were terrifying. I always say, "We really don't have them in this part of the country - just some snow blowing." The prairie didn't have bush or hills. People started to leave the prairie; there were no crops, no feed. A sustenance or help plan was not established at that time for people who were desperate for the necessities of life. A relief program was later put into effect, but people then regarded it as "demeaning charity" for the most part.

Gladys had taught school before her marriage to John Meyer, near Youngstown. He had a number of brothers and in 1932, John, Jake, Paul, Linus, Leo, Eugene pulled out (was the term used) for greener pastures, the Irma area. My brother, Laurence accompanied them to help drive cattle across country.

Dad, mother and Evelyn (Toots) came to the Irma area in 1933. They rented a farm in the Ross district six miles northwest of Irma. My brother, Gordon and I came in 1934. It was hard, not knowing people to get established. We weren't used to the bush or trees which obscured the skyline; one couldn't see the sunrise and sunset. Six miles from town, after years of walking or driving the buggy uptown, whenever we felt like it, was a real hardship. People here used a few unfamiliar words too; like "coulee" and "bush". When they were ready to leave, they said, "They'd better dangle". Free range was still available.

Irma was kind to us, the hospitality and thoughtfulness of the Ross district people and others was super. Many brought seeds they had saved from their gardens. There was no wild fruit on the prairie and what a joy to pick saskatoons, wild raspberries, sometimes gooseberries. Neighbors told us where the best berries grew. I remember Mrs. Victor Nash (one mile away), Mrs. L. Gwinn (south a couple of miles) bringing seeds. Mrs.

Sellstedt would greet you in her yard saying "Welcome, welcome!"

Irma had many pluses. It was so gratifying to be able to grow a garden. The Howard Peterson's started us in strawberries by bringing over plants. Fenton Nash, Wilbert Myers, his father Wallace Myers, helped us in many ways. It also turned out the bush could be cut and sawn up for firewood. In the south people bought coal. I remember my dad saying and he wasn't a young man then, that he liked to cut and saw wood because it warmed him twice; once when he cut it and again when he burned it.

Mother had always been energetic and active. She used to raise and sell chickens, turkeys, eggs, butter and cream at Oyen. Our sister Gladys, as the oldest took a great deal of care of us younger ones so Mother was free to do this and for that we are very grateful.

Soon we got acquainted, but I remember once hearing of someone who couldn't recall our names so referred to Evelyn and me as those two dried up girls from the south country. Mother joined Irma W.I. Evelyn took her last year of high school in Irma. We had always been a family who loved to read and talk. Gladys and John Meyer didn't live too far away and we often visited and we enjoyed their family very much. Gordon and his wife and family were close by until they moved to B.C. in the late 1930's. Gordon still lives at Princeton, and is retired. Our family moved to Jarrow in the fall of 1939, Dad still farming in the Irma area. In 1946 the family moved to the Charter place, Irma area and lived there until the spring of 1956 when Dad and Evelyn bought Mrs. Allen's house where Evelyn and my sister Gladys still live. Laurence farmed west of Irma for years. He and his wife, Ruth (Meakins) are now semi-retired and live in Irma. They have two sons. Evelyn worked for twenty-eight years in the Irma Co-op, retiring December, 1982. Gladys and Evelyn live together in Irma. John Meyer died in 1965.

I, Frances, married Pert (Percy) Prosser and we far-



Fred White in Jarrow.

med sixteen and one-half miles northeast of Irma in the Avonglen district, until a few years ago. We have a daughter, Gayle Munro, a son, Robin, plus a grandson, James Munro and a granddaughter, Jeannie Prosser.

Mother grew lovely gardens and flowers, was an excellent seamstress, always interested in others, generous and kind. She died at sixty-six in 1950.

Father was a gentle, methodical, patient person, a deep thinker with a philosophical turn of mind. He always looked for good in others. He lived to be almost eighty-eight and died in 1963.

When I hear a meadow lark sing or the wind sighing in the night, it brings the prairie, the big country, back to me.

WHITE, FRED

by Mary Stimson

Fred White moved from the United States to a farm ten and one-half miles south of Irma in 1909. His land was across the road from the Sam Szoke farm and also bordering the George Rubenok farm. He was a bachelor and lived a very quiet life with his animals, which he really loved. Nobody knew too much about him because he didn't socialize. He used to ride his saddle horse (Saskatoon) to visit Mr. Hill. Unfortunately, he was killed in a farm accident on his farm in 1942. He is buried in the Irma Cemetery.

WHYTE, MR. AND MRS. ROY

by Daughter Flora Carter

I went to Irma in March of 1920 as an agent of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Co. (later C.N. Rail).

Ed Sharkey Sr. was the owner of the Restaurant called Sharkey's Restaurant. I would feel sorry to miss a name of a person there at that time.

I do want to mention a few names which will live forever in my mind; Bill Masson, Ross McFarland, Percy Jones, Dr. Mac Gregor, Jack Fletcher, H.W. Love, and son Russell.

Bill Masson was the manager of the Merchants Bank and Jack Fletcher was a hardware merchant. Ross McFarland was also a general merchant and Percy Jones sold farm machinery.

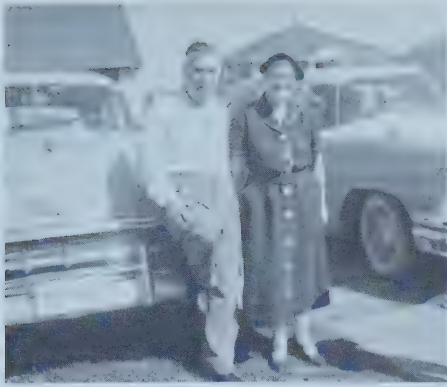
In 1923 I married Vera Lovell Harrison of Vancouver. Vera Whyte played in Chatauqua in Sedgewick but not in Irma. She later taught the Irma Church Choir consisting of Jack Tate, Ed Jewell and Tish Schon among others. She also gave private piano lessons.

Mrs. Whyte passed away June 14, 1984. Mr. Whyte is under the care of an eye physician.

THE WILBRAHAM FAMILY

by Muriel Ewing

The Wilbraham family came to homestead on a piece of land near Fabyan and Hawkins Station about ten miles from Irma. George and Eliza Wilbraham, three sons and two daughters came from Middlisborough, England in 1911. The farm was not very productive. In 1914 World War I broke out and the two oldest sons, Arthur and



Charles and Emily Wilbraham, 1956.

Roland, enlisted. The rest of the family moved to Edmonton leaving the youngest son Charles to farm the homestead. It was a great struggle!! In 1924 Emily Brown came from London, England and married Charles. They had two children, Muriel and Bob. In 1928 Charles had learned telegraphy and went to work for the Grand Trunk Railroad in Irma as a telegrapher. Mr. Roy White was the Station agent in Irma at that time. In 1929 Mr. Tate the secretary-treasurer of the M.D. of Battle River passed away and Charles, who had been taught bookkeeping by his wife, Emily, got the position of



Bob Wilbraham and Jack McKay, 1938.



Muriel Wilbraham

secretary of the M.D. and also kept the books for the Village of Irma.

Muriel and Bob attended public and high school in Irma. Emily was an active worker in the Anglican W.A. and Women's Institute and supported the small Anglican Church, St. Marys.

In 1941 the M.D. of Battle River was enlarged and joined the M.D. of Wainwright so the Wilbraham family had to move to Wainwright.

Charlie and Emily Wilbraham lived in the Irma area for over forty years.

During World War II Charles was very active with the Sea Cadets and Muriel and Bob served in the Royal Canadian Navy.

Charles was Magistrate in Wainwright and district area and after retirement from the M.D. became magistrate in the Province of Alberta until his death in 1972. Emily preceded him in 1968.

Bob Wilbraham lives in Wetaskiwin and Muriel Ewing in Edmonton.

Many fond memories are held by us both of our childhood days in Irma.

WILLERTON FARMS

by Eleanor and Alice Willerton

In 1926 Norman Willerton arrived in Alberta from England. After working on several farms in the area of Hardisty and Irma he bought Section 13-46-8 in the Roseberry District in the spring of 1932. He brought his bride Eleanor Barber to this farm in December of the same year.

This land had been broken as a Hart-Par tractor demonstration in 1929. The Elliot brothers who lived there had a tamarac post fence erected around the section. After their first crop in 1930 one of the brothers died and the other returned to Westlock. In 1931 the land was rented to Prosser and Saville and in 1932 was sold to Norman. Norman and Eleanor lived there until 1970 when they retired to the town of Wainwright.

To Norman and Eleanor were born three children: Bruce, Norma and Ruby. Ruby, their youngest married Randy Olsen of Wainwright and have lived in Toronto, Edmonton and are presently at Fort McMurray. Randy



1971. (Standing) Ruby, Norma, Bruce, Eleanor and Norman Willerton.

works in the Computer Centre of Syncrude Oil. They have two children, Lana and Lori. Norma married Pete Belton of Irma and are living in Edmonton. They have two daughters, Valaine and Roxanne.

Bruce, upon the completion of a year at Vermilion Agricultural College started farming with his father in 1957 bringing to the farm his bride Alice Tomlinson from Irma. Bruce and Alice have four children: Richard, Brenda, Eddie and Kevin. Richard lives on the former Laycock farm. Eddie and Kevin work on the farm at home and Brenda is a hairdresser in Wainwright.

Willerton Farms Ltd. was formed in 1971. As the boys grew so did the farm. They now own fifteen quarters and lease ten quarters. Their main crops are wheat, barley, oats and canola. They raise five hundred hogs in summer to seven hundred in winter. Just to keep them busy all year round they sell Motoski Power toboggans in winter. This marks fifty years of Willertons on "section thirteen".



1981. Kevin, Ed, Brenda, Richard, Bruce and Alice.

Norman was an active member of the Farmers' Union. He served on the board of the Fabyan Mutual Telephone Company as chairman along with Walter Adams as secretary and, Bob Milton, Maurice Paré, Maurice Parcels and Jack Taylor as directors until the installation of the underground system. Norman was chairman of the Roseberry Rural Electrification from its formation in 1952 until his retirement when he was replaced by his son, Bruce, as a director. Other directors were Les Tindall, Layton Barss, Neil MacMillan, Erling Larson, Edgar Jones and Howard Oldham. Eleanor has been a community worker through the Sew and So Club, Rebecca Lodge, Farm Women and the Hospital Auxiliary. Bruce has been a councillor of the Wainwright Municipality for three years and is presently serving a second term.

Norman and Eleanor have seen many changes in their forty years on the farm - the advent of electricity, the underground telephone system, a semi-surfaced road past the farm, consolidated schools and school busses, and enlarged Municipal Districts. They saw hospital services rendered from the cottage in 1926 to the larger hospital of 1948 to the Wainwright General Hospital and Auxiliary Complex of today. They saw the building of the Battle River Senior Citizens Lodge and the Lyons Manor.

Church services were held in Passchendale and Roseberry schools under the auspices of the Irma United Church while Battle Heights served for the Anglican Church from Wainwright. With the sale of these schools the church services were held in Wainwright and Irma.

Norman and Eleanor celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1982 and are living happily in their home in Wainwright.



Bob and Claudia with Robby, Stacey and Stephanie.

BOB AND CLAUDIA WILLIAMS FAMILY

I, Claudia Williams am the youngest daughter of Lyn and Nerine Hunter. I was born at Mannville on October 22, 1950. I received my early schooling at Albert and finished my remaining six years at Irma High School.

On completing grade twelve I moved to Edmonton where I was employed with the Edmonton Public School Board.

On April 5th, 1969 I married Bob Williams, the youngest child of Richard and Mabel Williams of Viking. We lived in Edmonton for a short time before moving to Fox Creek, Alberta, where Bob was employed with Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas. I worked for about a year as Secretary of the Fox Creek School. During our seven years at Fox Creek our first child Robby, was born on January 9th, 1972 and Stacey was born on October 9th, 1973. Because Fox Creek did not have a hospital, Robby and Stacey were born fifty miles away in Whitecourt.

When my father died in January of 1976 we left Fox Creek and moved back to the family farm. That same year our third child Stephanie was born on August 14th, 1976 in Viking.

We still live on the farm with our three children and Grandma Hunter. Robby, Stacey and Stephanie attend the Irma School. Bob has rented the land and works off the farm full time for Merland Explorations. He also worked for the M.D. of Wainwright.

THE RUSSELL WILLIAMSONS

Russell or Russ, as he was known, and wife Elizabeth, called Lizzie, homesteaded the SE 18-46-8. Russell's

father homesteaded the SE 2-46-9 east of where Clarence Barber lives. Russ and Liz had many new homestead experiences. Liz learned to bake bread from Mr. Robinson Harper and when he told her to punch holes in the top of the loaves to let the gas out she said she didn't ask any more questions.

Both Liz and Russ were friendly and hospitable and their home was open to friends and neighbors. Russ played the drums for many dances in the area which they both attended. The Williamsons raised sheep which were a real novelty to young people of the district.

Having no children of their own they adopted a very young son, named Russell Junior and he was known as Junior. He was a clever little lad and in later years had a prominent business position in Toronto or Ottawa. He never married and passed away as a comparatively young man.

The Williamsons left the Alma Mater District and went to Edmonton. Russell had a nervous breakdown after which he and Liz had a marriage separation. He eventually passed away in a nursing home. Liz remarried Jack Craig, a widower and old family friend and they have lived many years in Victoria, B.C.

The Craigs bought the G.A. Walker homestead south of MacMillans and enlarged the house. Mrs. Craig was a wheelchair invalid and Mr. Craig brought her to church at Alma Mater in her wheelchair. They moved to Edmonton before Mrs. Craig passed away.

Jack and Liz visited Jack and Meg Dunbar in Irma several times.

Jack Craig passed away several years ago and as no one has had recent word from Liz it is believed she too has passed on.

REVEREND AND MRS. G. WILSON

Reverend Gordon Wilson accompanied by his wife Edith, came from Vauxhall to be the minister of Irma United Church in the summer of 1971.

The Wilsons were talented singers and added much to the music at Irma United. They sang in the choir and Mrs. Wilson led a Junior Choir which provided music at various church services. Mr. Wilson occasionally strummed a tune on his autoharp, to the delight of the congregation. His object lessons, which were a regular part of every service, were enjoyed especially by children but also by the adults.

The community, also, benefitted from their nine years spent in Irma. Edith was a staunch member and good worker in the Eastern Star Lodge and the U.C.W.; both belonged to the New Horizons Club, and were always willing to lend help when programs were needed.

The church celebrated its sixty-fifth anniversary while the Wilsons were here. At this time we were fortunate to get a picture of former ministers Reverend and Mrs. Inglis, Reverend Longmire, together with the Wilsons.

Their family of three, two daughters and a son are married and have given the Wilsons several grandchildren.

One of Mr. Wilson's hobbies was playing chess. Edith seemed to have a "green thumb" in the growing of house plants, and also was noted for her outdoor flowers, a

bouquet of which was often brought into the sanctuary on a Sunday morning. Most of their summer holidays were spent at their cabin by the lake.

Prior to June 1980, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson had been making plans for his retirement. They had purchased property in Lethbridge and on completion of a lengthy service in the ministry they moved to Lethbridge where they now reside.

GEORGE WILSON

by George Wilson

I was born June 8th, 1901 and brought up in Gananoque, Ontario which was on the Canadian shore centre of the Thousand Islands in the St. Lawrence River. I left for the West in the fall of 1919, on a harvest excursion train for the sum of seven dollars. I arrived at Macleod, Alberta and later went to Lamond where I took a job with the Southern Alberta Irrigation Company building the McGregor Lake Dam. This was all built with horses and mules and a lot of men. Then I moved on to Champion, Carmangay and other parts in that area. I then met a man who was coming north to Minburn with a herd of horses so I hired on with him and we arrived just before cold weather set in. I worked for him during 1923 and '24 and then got a job with Grover Arnold, north of Irma. He owned nine quarters of land. The large trees that presently surround the yard were only a year old at that time. One fall we hauled fifty loads of straw and Grover tramped this straw around these young trees. Later I worked for "McLean and Patterson". I tried different work, like clearing land and trucking. When the



George Wilson, 1923.

Hungry Thirties hit us, I got a job with the Coulman Brothers. We didn't make much money but were happy, going to dances and playing hockey.

In 1935 I left Irma for the Peace River country. I had several different jobs there including threshing, hauling grain and general trucking. In 1943 I went to Dawson Creek and drove a truck on the Alaska Highway as far north as Fort Nelson. Later I trucked on the MacKenzie Highway. The following spring a friend and I bought a "cat" tractor. We cleared land and built roads. In the fall of that year I took the "cat" to Hay River to haul freight to Yellowknife across Great Bear Lake. On one occasion twelve sleighs broke through the ice. We got everything out except twenty-eight tons of tool steel. I don't think they ever got it out. We decided to return to the "flat" country and I bought some land and farmed for awhile. Later I bought property at North Star, near Manning, Alberta where I still reside.

WILSON FAMILY

by Grace Wilson

John (Jack) G. Wilson and Grace Love Wilson. Grace took all of her schooling in *Irma*, and one year at the Vermilion Agriculture College before going in training at the Royal Alex Hospital in Edmonton. Jack was already associated with the H.W. Love honey business before their marriage in 1932. Jack spent most of his working years in the honey business. He was foreman of the honey packing department for years and in 1956 was assigned the same position for P.J. Hodgson Bee Supplies in Burnaby B.C. In 1968 he decided to leave the honey packing business and join his son John in Kelowna, B.C. to go into an extensive vending machine business. In 1974 he retired.

The Wilsons have five children - Sheila Watt - three children - Debra Long (deceased), Brian - Edmonton, Judy - Kelowna, B.C. Sheila is Alberta Area Manager for the Optical Departments of the Woodward stores, working out of Calgary.

John W. Wilson - three children - Karen Brost - Fort Nelson, Mitch - Kelowna, Wayne - Kelowna. John was part owner of Lethbridge Bottling for six years. He



John G. Wilson family - 50th anniversary. Gail, Keith, Doreen, John, Sheila, Jack and Grace.

moved to Kelowna and went into the vending machine business in 1968. Since retiring from the vending business, he operates his own Mini-Mite sawmill.

D. Keith Wilson - four children - twin grandsons. Jeff - Silver Valley, Alberta, John - Silver Valley, Alberta, Dawn, Silver Valley, Alberta, Danny - Silver Valley, Alberta. Keith was in the Air Force for awhile, with Hodgson Bee Supplies for years, and eight years ago took up farming in Silver Valley area of Alberta.

Doreen Saunders - two children - Trevor - Kelowna, Lorna - Kelowna. Doreen did secretarial work for years. Now lives with her husband Ron on Quadra Island, B.C.

Gail Dutchak - two children - Linda - Vernon, B.C., Rob - Vernon. Gail spends most of her time helping her husband Len operate their dairy supply business in Armstrong, B.C. They are residing in Vernon, B.C.

MR. AND MRS. AHAB WINFIELD

Mr. and Mrs. Ahab Winfield came to Kinsella on May 11th, 1929. They came over on the Andania from Derby, England, with daughters, Alice and Beatrice, and sons, Alfred and Abbie.

They settled on a farm nine miles north and three miles east of Kinsella. Rodino Hall was built across the road from them. Mr. Winfield and Alfred farmed this same land until Mr. Winfield passed away, in January, 1963. Alfred passed away, the result of an automobile accident in October, 1974. Mrs. Winfield passed away in April, 1964.

Beatrice, who married Edgar Jones, had four children and they lived in the Albert district. Both Beatrice and Edgar lost their lives in the accident with Alfred in October, 1974.

Mr. and Mrs. John Crouse (Alice) and four children moved to Creston, B.C. where she passed away in August, 1976.

Mr. and Mrs. Abbie Winfield and seven children farmed in the district until 1967 when they moved to Wildwood, Alberta.

EMIL WIRTH

Emil Wirth came to Irma from the States but was born in Switzerland. He homesteaded N.W. 4-47-9 north of Irma in 1909. He had worked for some big cattle companies in the States feeding and fattening cattle, a lot of which were long-horned cattle from Texas. He went into the cattle business as most of his homestead land was open range. He built a good house and a sod barn and later put up some more pretty fair buildings.

In the early twenties he sold the place to Harry Lyster and subsequently bought the S 1/2 10-47-9 where he built both a barn and a house. He farmed this land and raised cattle, then in 1927 he rented his land out and bought a Rumley tractor and separator and did custom threshing. He eventually sold this land to Jim Clisdell who farmed it until he sold to Don Lukens.

Emil then bought S.E. 34-45-9 just outside the Irma town limits. Here he drilled a well, put up a shack and a small barn and raised a few acres of corn which he sold.



Emil Wirth (brother of Mrs. J.B. Hubman, Sr.) with pets, dog and chipmunk, taken about 1945.

He became famous for his delicious corn-on-the-cob. There was a gravel pit on this quarter of land and being resourceful he made good use of it. He sold gravel to contractors, hauling it with a team of horses. The cement blocks in the Hedley building were made from Emil's gravel pit.

Not being content with his corn and his gravel pit he began to dabble in cattle again. He was a good judge of cattle so he obtained a dealer's license and bought and sold cattle throughout the area.

Emil was easy going, had a good sense of humor and was an excellent story teller. Travelling about the country buying and selling cattle provided him with a host of friends and an audience who were more than willing to listen to his tales of good humor and warm concern. In his later years Emil went to live in the Battle River Lodge in Wainwright. He died in June of 1970.

Baptist Wirth was Emil's brother. He homesteaded on N.E. 34-46-9 about the same time as Emil. He stayed long enough to prove up the homestead and then left. It remained vacant for a number of years, until Tam Ambler acquired it. Emil and Baptiste were brothers to Mrs. Hubman Sr.



Gloria, Francis, and Jean Withall.

FRANCIS AND GLORIA WITHALL

I was born in 1943 in Hardisty, Alberta being the only child of Frank and Jean Withall and the only one of Mom's eight children born in the hospital. We lived five miles south and one-half mile west of Irma and I attended Glenholm School until the end of grade three. Looking back, going to a "country" school was an experience I wouldn't want to have missed! With nine grades in the same room there was always something going on and no time for boredom. I completed my schooling in Irma and after various jobs in the surrounding area, decided to take a commercial signwriting course at N.A.I.T. Upon graduation in 1965 I was employed at Hook Signs in Edmonton and worked there for two years.

In Canada's Centennial year, 1967, I opened Ad-Art Sign Studios, which I have owned and operated to the present time.

I reside in the Clareview district of Edmonton with my wife, Gloria, whom I married in 1975. I still look forward to coming "home" to Irma to visit family and renew old friendships.

FRANK AND JEAN WITHALL

by Lil (MacKay) Glasgow

Frank made the journey from England to Canada in May, 1921. He had been an apprentice printer in England. He came to Rube Harding's at Hardisty and worked in that vicinity before moving to his own quarter of land 4 1/2 miles south of Irma. Frank was very musical and artistic. He was adept at playing several musical instruments including violin, mandolin, guitar



Frank and Jean Withall's wedding picture.

(tunes, not chords) mouth organ etc. The Norman Fluevog's recall his coming to visit and joining in sing-songs with his mandolin. Our autograph books were decorated with cartoons.

The following is excerpts from a diary Frank kept of his trip from England to Hardisty. He was 21 years of age at the time.

Wed., May 4, 1921 - Arrived on board at 12 noon, nearly sick but put it down to standing about too long.

Friday, May 6 - I think a rat ran along one of the girders over the bunk just now so may have company during the night. Plenty of music about. Two flutes and a mandolin in our cabin.

Sunday, May 8 - Felt absolutely rotten all day (sea-sick). No grub today.

Monday, May 9 - Nearly two days without any grub. Most people seem to be getting better now.

Tuesday, May 10 - Rougher seas this morning, can't get on deck. Shall be glad when I get to Hardisty.

Thursday, May 12 - There is nothing to do but eat and sleep. I hear we shall be sighting Newfoundland either tonight or tomorrow. We have just passed a whacking great iceberg about one quarter mile off, any amount of them on the skyline. The water is now like a duck pond and the icebergs are all around in a tremendous circle. There is also a vessel in sight, the first since we set out. This is the end of another day and it was quite dark at a quarter past eight. Very cold, almost like winter. I suppose it is being in the vicinity of icebergs. It has been a glorious evening and it looked fine with the sun shining on the bergs. I think that we are pretty clear of them now. One of the chaps is playing the mandolin.

Friday, May 13 - Sea nice and calm now. Heard we had to stop during the night on account of fog and icebergs. It is clear now. Land in sight!! 3 p.m.

Sunday, May 15 - Doesn't seem much like Sunday. Not much sleep last night, everyone seemed to be too excited. We are now passing a lot of rocks and very large islands. The land is very hilly all along the gulf and it looks very nice. At last we have arrived (6 p.m.). I'm jolly glad too. Passed the customs alright and they didn't look in anyone's luggage. Waiting for the train now which is supposed to start out at 10:45 p.m. railway time, 11:45 summer time.

Monday, May 16 - We had a fairly comfortable ride to Montreal and arrived at about 6:30 a.m. railway time. The train leaves Montreal at 10:15 tonight so we have all day to look around the town. I am writing this in the waiting room of the C.P.R. and it is what they say here, "some waiting room". You could almost drop Fratton Station into it. Had breakfast at the Y.W.C.A. and every person gets a tray, and as you pass along the course you get what you want and pay at the other end. Eggs and bacon, roll and butter and jam, tea, cream and sugar for 45¢. Some of the people who complained about the roads in Portsmouth ought to see the roads here. They are awful, especially where the tram lines are. Staying here the day gave us the chance to see the town and talk about motor cars, the place is alive with them! Got on the train about 9:30 so am alright 'til we get to Winnipeg where I change.

Wednesday, May 18 - Expect we shall be in Winnipeg

tonight. Arrived at 10:10 p.m. Thought the waiting room at Montreal was fine but this one takes the biscuit. Expect to arrive at Hardisty between 6 and 8 tomorrow night.

Thursday, May 19 - We are well into Manitoba now and there are more farms about. The soil is very black. We are now passing the prairie land, almost flat as a saucer here. Just saw two hares, the first wild animals since I landed. Arrived at Saskatoon about five p.m. It's a fine, great town, trams etc. Streets are nice and wide too. Nearly at journeys end, get there about three in the morning. Jolly glad to have arrived at last, three a.m. Have to find the Cecil Hotel. I will ring Mr. Harding up in the morning. eight a.m. - Just rang up Mr. Harding and he had a job to understand me. Engaged at \$30.00/month.

Frank served in World War I. He joined up in World War II in 1943 and was stationed in Canada guarding prisoners. After baching for many years, he married Jean MacKay in 1943. They had one son Francis.

Following the end of the war Frank returned to farm his and the MacKay land. Rural electrification lightened the burdens of farming some in 1953 (no longer needed the coal-oil lantern to milk the cows by).

The telephone was put in in 1966. Frank and Jean sold the farm in 1967 and retired to Irma. Jean's son Jack now farms the MacKay home quarter. Frank died February, 1974 at the age of 74. Jean died in September, 1982 at the age of 78.

MR. AND MRS. JAS. WOOD

by Alma Enger

Mr. James C. Wood, a beloved and respected pioneer, took up his homestead the S.E. 30-45-9-W4th in April of 1909.

Jim, as the neighbors called him, was born near Warren Point, County Down, Ireland, on March 30th, 1860. This was the beginning of a long and interesting life.



James and Helen Wood in early 1940.

At the age of thirteen years he began to work in the Provision Stores at Liverpool, England. This was hum-drum work and a sea life was beckoning to him. At the age of fifteen he ran away to sea as a deck boy on a sailing vessel.

He had many interesting stories to tell of this period in his life. At that time, in the Eastern Countries - especially Eastern Europe, when a sailing vessel put into Port the sailors didn't unload the cargo. The women of the Port town or city did this menial task and also loaded the boats. This provided a wee holiday for the sailors after weeks and sometimes months on the seas.

Mr. Wood told me of the trying experience of being becalmed on the Indian Ocean. Their provisions and especially their fresh water were "doled" out, but the last few days it was almost non-existent.

In his nine years at sea he had sailed around the world three times.

His father passed away in 1884 so Jim left the sea and returned to Ireland. He brought his mother and only sister to Canada - thus opening up a new chapter in his life.

He spent two years in Eastern Canada and then moved to North Dakota for two years. He didn't like the weather there so moved to Manitoba where he lived for thirteen years.

He liked the climate and the sea in the Vancouver area when there in his "sailing days". So in the very early 1900's he went to B.C. and filed on a homestead just north of Burrard Inlet. This area was known as the Little Mountain area. When his mother saw it she refused to live there, saying it was nothing but rocks and stumps. (This is now part of Queen Elizabeth Park). He told me this one day rather wistfully. He felt it had been a good opportunity lost. The land wasn't the only attraction - once a sailor, always a sailor - the ocean had an attraction also.

When he gave up the idea of homesteading in B.C. he came to Alberta. He filed on a homestead site west of Leduc in what is now the oil field area. The land was bushy and swampy and couldn't really be farmed too well. He needed "corduroy roads" to cross the land so gave it up and moved into Strathcona, now South Edmonton. Here he worked for a livery barn. The owner had a beautiful "span" of black horses which were used to pull the hearse in the early days of Strathcona. Jim, of course, was the driver. He and his mother spent four years there before moving to the Irma district, taking up a homestead about a mile west of town. His mother, who was aged, didn't have good health and although she was confined to bed for a number of years, he tenderly nursed and cared for her until her death.

In November, 1918 Mr. Wood and Mrs. Helen Alberta (Hodgekinson) Jordan were married. Mrs. Wood, born March 14th, 1868, was a native of Smiths Falls, Ontario. Her sister, Mrs. George Knapp lived north of Kinsella so Mrs. Wood was aware of the kind of country she was coming to.

Mrs. Wood's character was a happy blend of originality and common sense. She truly had a green thumb and her beautiful houseplants and wonderful gardens proved it.

In 1928 or '29 they moved from the homestead to the former George Wakefield farm in the Crescent Hill district and continued to live there until they were no longer able to farm. They moved to Irma and built a little cottage at the north end of Main Street. Here they spent several happy years, still gardening, canning, etc. and best of all spending happy hours with their many friends.

When failing health overtook Mrs. Wood, once more Mr. Wood, who was now past eighty-five years, was called upon to care for an invalid. This he did in a very wonderful way until she passed away November 3rd, 1948.

During the remaining years of his life he continued on alone in the little cottage. His serene and cheerful disposition made it a pleasure for all of us to visit him. He was always a gentleman of the highest integrity and this with his gentle charm and Irish wit, remained with him to the end. He passed away in October, 1955.

Their foster daughter, Anna Anderson, was a great joy to them both but time moved quickly and Anna grew up and started on her life. She married and is living in the States.

THOMAS WOOD

Tom Wood came to the Irma district from Smithville, Ontario shortly after the turn of the century. He homesteaded N.E. 6-46-8-W4, now owned by Roy Burton. Besides farming, Tom drilled or bored water wells for many farmers in the Irma, Jarrow and Kinsella districts. When he left the Irma locality he moved to a farm northeast of Kinsella where he farmed five quarters and kept on drilling wells. In 1954 he sold his farm and moved into Kinsella. In 1963 he moved to Vialta Lodge and lived there until shortly before his death. He passed away May 8th, 1966 at Wainwright Auxiliary Hospital and his remains were shipped to Smithville, Ontario where he was buried beside his parents.

Tom was a well respected citizen and well liked by everyone. Tom Wood's land at Kinsella is now owned by Bill and Hjordis Armitage.



Tom and Sarah Wood in Tom's bug.

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE WORTHING FAMILY

George Worthing came to Canada in 1914 with his parents to a homestead in the Hemaruka area.

In 1923 he married Myrtle Bignell of Youngstown. In 1931 they moved to Irma, then to the Battle Heights district to the S.W. of 28-45 then up to N.E. 28-45 from there down to the N 1/2 or 24-45 range 8, (the J.H. Wakefield place). They decided to move again to the N.W. of 34-46-8, Avonglen district, where they farmed until moving to the Crescent Hill district taking up residence in the school. There they took up farming and George was employed at the Army Base until his retirement.

George enjoyed his farming, cattle and family. He was very musical and many evenings were spent with a violin, auto harp, mandolin, organ. People enjoyed his music as they tapped their toes to the old-time waltzes and polkas. He played at many dances at the schools.

George's hobbies were hunting, fishing, and his music. Myrtle's hobbies were gardening, photography and berry picking. They enjoyed company and there was always a cup of tea and some eats to go with it. The crib board was ready for anyone that would challenge at a crib game.

Retiring to Wainwright in the early 1970's he went to gardening, beautifying his yard and feeding the birds.

George and Myrtle had a family of eleven children, Reg married Pearl Walker of Fabyan and resides at Burns Lake, B.C., Allan married Amanda Neufeld and lives at Edson, George married Carleen Allen and they live in Wainwright, Ralph married Rose Heibi and are in Kamloops, Myrtle married Carl Kile and they reside in Wainwright, Violet married Les Perkins and they also live in Kamloops. Joy married David Hudson and are at Creston, B.C., Dennis wed Lorraine Bombadiere and their home is at Kamloops. Wayne and his wife Ronna (nee Scryper) are at Hinton. Shirley Babchyshyn lives at Fort Nelson, B.C. Connie wed Bert Covell and they are residing at Pembroke, Ontario and Lorna married Ken Branden and they are at Penhold.

George passed away August sixth 1981 after a lengthy illness and was laid to rest in the Wainwright cemetery. Myrtle moved to Kamloops and is residing there today.



Mr. and Mrs. George Worthing's Fiftieth Anniversary.

PERCY WRIGHT

Percy Floyd Wright, the only son of John and Joanne Wright was born in Strathcona on May 13th, 1903. He came by covered wagon, as a babe in his mother's arms to their homestead in the Imperial district, twelve miles south of Vegreville. At this time the members of the John Wright family were parents John and Joanne, Stella (later Mrs. Carl Handy) and Lila (later Mrs. Dick Rohrer). The last member of their family, born two years later was Mildred (later Mrs. George Bridgeman).

Percy grew up in this area taking all his schooling in Vegreville.

The John Wright family moved to a farm in the Ranfurly area in 1929. Then in 1932 Percy married Ethel Beamish of Ranfurly, where they divided the house into two living quarters. They remained on the family farm until 1949 when they moved to their own land, one-half mile east of Jarrow. In 1949 Percy and Ethel purchased the Toll barn, located north of Irma, and with the help of George Bridgeman and Jack Campbell, tore it down, moved it home and built their first house.

Percy was active in farming and community affairs until taking ill in 1965 and passing away in the spring of 1966.

After selling the farmland to Wayne and Phyllis King, Ethel moved to Irma, then Viking. Later she married Mal Dewar and she resided in Wainwright until her passing in the spring of 1979.

Percy and Ethel raised a chosen son Clifford. He married Karen Ford of Lavoy. They now reside at Fort Nelson with their family.

THE WYAND FAMILY

by Myrtle Christie Wyand

Homer, Elmer and Frank Wyand were born near Mayfield, Prince Edward Island in the 1890's to Silas and Emily Wyand. Homer and Frank came west on a harvest excursion and found work near Plato, Saskatchewan. After spending some time in the army in Regina, Homer and Frank bought land near Heward, Saskatchewan in 1918 and were joined by their sister Isabel, and in the spring of 1919 by their parents, brother Elmer and sister Kathleen, arrived to make their home on the farm. Kathleen contracted the dreaded influenza on the train and passed away soon after they arrived.

I was born in Marmora, Ontario, and moved to Milestone, Saskatchewan with my parents, Allen and Levina Christie when I was four years old. I attended schools in that area and attended normal school in Weyburn. In August of 1923 I arrived to teach school at West Heward where I boarded at the nearby Wyand home. Many neighbor ladies were former schoolteachers and I joined their ranks when I married Frank in December, 1925. A daughter, Hazel was born the following year. After harvest in 1926 we rented our farm to a neighbor and spent the next four years at Langley Prairie, B.C., where we had a poultry farm and Frank worked in construction, before returning to the farm. In 1934 we adopted a son, Allen when he was six months



Frank Wyand in early 1950's.



Elmer Wyand in 1977.



Levina Christie, Myrtle Wyand, Isabel Crockett, Homer Wyand in fall of 1971.

old, and also looked after two foster girls. These were difficult times for everyone and especially the farmer in southern Saskatchewan, for if the crops didn't suffer from the drought the grasshoppers ate it up. Once it was hailed and another year was badly rusted and cattle wouldn't even eat it. Gophers were troublesome, too, and a bounty of two cents was paid for each tail. A neighbor boy took the tail off and turned the gopher loose, hoping it would produce another tail. I doubt if he ever found out because the farmers were busy with a pail of poison, too. Dust storms were so bad that it was often dark in the house at midday, the fences were banked by dirt and Russian thistles. Tumbling weeds resembled kites as they were lifted high in the sky by the persistent wind. One year armyworms were so bad that the horse used to pull the buggy would be covered almost to his back by their remains after a trip to town. We went three miles by wagon for water for the livestock and washing so that our good well water would supply water for ourselves and neighbors for drinking and cooking. Each spring, after an abundance of snow and always living in hopes, we planted our crops and put in a large garden, carrying water to the garden from a slough until it dried up. Feed for livestock was shipped in by train. Apples, vegetables, cheese and clothing came from the people of Ontario as a gift, and were distributed on the quota system. Our fresh meat during the spring, summer and fall was provided by

a beef ring. This was a co-operative idea, whereby each farmer would supply one animal for slaughtering during that time and in return get a fresh piece of meat each week which was weighed and recorded. Each member should by the time the season was over have received each cut in a beef. Wood and coal were hauled about fifty miles by sleigh, several farmers making the trip of three days together in case of trouble. Each Christmas the United Church we attended gave each child a gift, often used, but always appreciated. The Federal Government began a program of assistance which became known as relief, at that time our family of seven received twelve dollars a month for food and clothing and we returned the cheque. Stupid!!! Homer and Frank "rode the rails" (went on a freight train) to Manitoba and found jobs during harvest but wages were very low. In 1937, after seven years of almost total crop failure, the Saskatchewan government initiated a project to move people to the northern part of Saskatchewan and other provinces. It was our responsibility to find a suitable location, acceptable to the government, and freight and transportation costs would be provided. We, Frank and I, Hazel, Allen, Homer and Elmer decided to move to Irma where Frank's sister and brother-in-law, Isabel and Vic Hutchinson, had found a farm for us to rent from G.B. Sawyer, two miles east of Irma. We arrived in December of 1937, the men on the freight train with the livestock and machinery and two weeks later Hazel, Allen and I on the passenger train.

What a change Irma was! The only native trees on our old farm was a bluff on half a dozen trees. Our rented farm contained a coulee and some cultivated land and a lot of trees which to us seemed like a forest. Hazel started school after the Christmas holidays - also a big change. From being the only one in her grade, she found herself one of many in her grade seven class, which was more than double the total enrollment of her former school. In a few subjects she was a year ahead and in others a year behind the courses being taught in Irma - a situation that was common at that time. Two months after arriving, and with the help of cows borrowed from Vic, we took over their small dairy business, delivering eight quarts of milk a day at six cents a quart to customers in Irma. Part of our livestock feed came from the pit at the elevator, while a typical meal for us included potato soup (potatoes that froze on the way tasted better that way) some canning and cheese we had brought with us. In the spring we put in the crop and a large garden and what a wonderful sight it was to see them grow. The coulee provided ample pasture for the livestock. The numerous birds were a delight. Although we were very lonesome for our former friends we were beginning to enjoy our life in Irma. The trains, for awhile a source of sleepless nights began to seem like they were quieter as they chugged past, but the bites from the horde of bedbugs never seemed to get any less annoying, and we spent hours going over the bedsprings, mattresses, and cracks with coal oil and every other surefire bedbug killer. A spring by the trestle provided an ample supply of good water for the hauling, and our refrigerator in the summer was a dry well south of the house.

Luella Van Meer, a foster child who had lived with us

for years but wasn't allowed to leave the province when we did, arrived to join us in 1938 after several unsuitable foster homes. She attended school for a short time and helped on the farm until 1940 when she was of age to join her sisters in Ontario. A widow now, she lives in Thunder Bay where she is close to her family of four and her grandchildren.

We gradually increased delivery of milk until we supplied Irma residents with milk and cream, bought the farm and an additional quarter from W. Masson and did some brushing.

Hazel finished school and helped on the farm and delivered milk until she married Joe Oracheski in 1945. In November of 1948 Hazel left our one year old grandson with us while she was in the hospital, however she was transferred to the sanitorium and Dennis became a real member of our home. He took his schooling in Irma before going to university.

Allan attended school at SunnyBrae and Irma and then worked on the farm and at the army camp. In 1956 he contracted encephalomyelitis or sleeping sickness and passed away in August, 1957.

In 1963 Frank was forced to quit delivering milk but sold milk to the Wainwright Dairy for awhile. He was always very proud of an item in the Irma Times which stated, "After faithfully serving the people of Irma for over twenty-five years, and in ill health, Frank Wyand was forced to retire from the dairy business." He continued to farm until his death in September, 1968.

Homer worked for farmers in the district, for Vic and in the coal mine near Cadomin before retiring to Vancouver where he passed away in October, 1979.

Elmer made his home with us and helped on the farm until ill health made it necessary for him to live in the Auxiliary Hospital. He always enjoyed his visits at the farm, and passed away in March, 1982.

I still live on the farm and manage it with the help and encouragement of my family and faithful hired man, Ben Adamson, who has been with us for twenty-four years. In 1980 I visited my former neighbors in Saskatchewan for the first time in forty-two years. Our old farm, and many others belong to an American Land Company. The trees we planted and all the buildings are gone. They suffered their third poor crop in 1981 and wonder if it is starting all over again. I didn't see anything on our trip that I liked better than my own small farm.

THOMAS EDWARD YARR

Tom Yarr was born in Belfast, Ireland. As a young man he came to Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, about 1904 and to the Irma district as a homesteader in 1907. He farmed successfully north of Irma until 1946 when he rented his land and retired to live in Irma. He was the bookkeeper for the Irma Co-operative Association.

Mr. Yarr, or Tom, as he preferred to be called, was a man of rather a retiring disposition. He seemed to shun crowds and avoid publicity of any kind. Yet while he never sought to be popular, he was universally respected for his undoubted integrity. Besides integrity, sincerity and gentleness were evident to those fortunate enough to call him friend.

He was buried from the Irma United Church of which he was a regular attendant, on Friday, February 26th, 1954. His body rests in the Irma cemetery.

Tom raised a lot of sheep and had a sheep dip in his barn. Tom's brother, John, lived there until he joined the Armed Forces and went overseas. After the war he came back and farmed awhile. A Mrs. Chamberlain kept house for the Yarr brothers for years until her death.

THE YEEND FAMILY

by Phyllis Thurston Craig

John Pensam Yeend and his wife were natives of South Wales, who left their home under the Soldier Settlement scheme and came to the Peace River country to make a new life. The new home did not materialize, and after three years they came to Irma in about 1930 to live temporarily with the Fred Thurston family.

Pen, as he was known, obtained work as janitor in the Bank of Montreal. He also did odd repair jobs, set up machinery, and worked for Chas. Lattner at the machine shop.

Their first home in Irma was a little square cottage near the fairgrounds known as the "McDowell house". He subsequently bought a lot at the west end of town, and built the house now occupied by Assunda McCammon. He donated the north end of the lot to the congregation of St. Mary's Anglican Church, enabling them to build a much-needed church. He assisted with the erection of the building, and their newly-adopted son was the first child to be baptized there.

When war broke out, the family moved to Edmonton, where Pen worked in Loveseth's Garage. Some time later they moved to British Columbia, where they remained for the rest of their lives.

CHARLES YOUNG

by Jim Jackson

The west half of section 14-45-9-W4th was homesteaded in the early days by Mr. Young and son Charlie, who came from the U.S.A. (some say from Chicago). At first Charlie lived in a cave dug out of the south side of a hill, north of where the house was later built. Two other bachelor homesteaders stayed with Charlie the first winter he lived on the homestead. In this connection, Charlie told me that that was the best winter he spent in Alberta. With a sod roof, the place was snug and warm. After one three day blizzard, their hideout was completely covered over and when they opened the door they had to dig snow back into the room and almost filled the limited space, before they could crawl out. One of the men who stayed with Charlie that winter was a Norwegian named Carl Ahlf, who had homesteaded the S.W. 12-45-9-W4th. After building a very substantial log house, Mr. and Mrs. Young and daughter Frinda moved in with Charlie. Mr. Young died in an accident while on the way to Irma for lumber to build a house. The team bolted while descending a narrow draw on Section 15. He was thrown from the wagon gear and killed instantly and was buried on the homestead, south and slightly west of where the house stands today. Some time later his body



Charlie J. Young with purebred suffolk ram about 1938.

YOUNKER (FRANK) FAMILY

by Jane (Yunker) Dudgeon

My Mom (Grace Drake) and Dad (Frank Yunker) were married in 1914 in Prince Edward Island. They were residents of Cornwall and North River respectively.

A year or more after they were married they moved out to a Ranch north of Edmonton where they worked for the Englishman who owned this large estate. Evidently when they saved enough money they bought horses and a wagon and travelled the long trip down to the Roseberry district where they had bought the homestead (where Fred Yunker lives now). After a year or so there my Dad's two brothers George, and Charlie, came out, too, from P.E.I. My Aunt Lily and Fred and I think maybe Hazel came out with them.

I was born in 1923 in the Kurfman Nursing Home in Irma and Etta was born in 1926. In about 1929 we moved over to a new farm just one and a half miles north of Roseberry School. Charlie Yunker and my Dad built our house there. Mr. Schieck from Wainwright drilled the 300 ft. well and set up the windmill above it.

Before we moved over to this place I remember that my Dad bought a Model T Ford car. That was quite exciting. I remember too one of the frights of my young life. When I was about five years old I got myself into this car and sat down in the drivers seat when no one was looking. Unknown to me the starter was on the floor under my feet and I accidentally stepped on it. The engine started and away the car went with me screaming inside. Fortunately my Dad was in the house and I can still see him tearing out of the house and chasing after the Ford and me till he caught up with us!

When we moved over to the other place north of Roseberry school my Dad bought a Chev car — it had a fabric type roof and a type of fabric side windows that could be taken off. (Those men who know their cars likely can name the type — I think it was called a "Touring Car").

When Etta was three years old she had a severe attack of appendicitis which Dr. Greenburg in Irma diagnosed. We rushed her to Hardisty hospital where he operated and her life was saved. There was no Penicillin then and the Sulfa drugs, if they were invented, were not being used in our area at that time.

I began school in 1930 in Roseberry, went to Irma High School in 1938 and finished in Three Hills in 1940. I worked for a year in the Treasury Dept. in the Parliament Buildings in Edmonton. The following three years were spent in Bible School in Three Hills with various summer jobs in Edmonton to pay my way through school.

In 1944 my folks moved to Vancouver as a measure to help my father's severe problem with asthma. Just before this time Etta finished high school and went into teachers' training. She too moved out to Vancouver and taught in White Rock and then in Indian Residential Schools in Port Alberni, Port Hardy and Bella Coola.

Because of a shortage of teachers another girl and I went north to Aiyansh and taught a year on an Indian Reserve. After this I entered Nurses Training in Portland, Oregon — graduating from there in 1949. After nursing for a couple of years I joined the Sudan Interior Mission

was exhumed and taken back to near Chicago.

Frinda Young married Dr. Murray McGregor, who was the doctor for the Irma area during the tragic flu epidemic of 1918.

Charlie rented the two homesteads to a man named Christenson and later sold out to a man named Foss. After selling the farm Charlie took a job buying furs for a company from Chicago at a place near the Liard River, N.W.T. From there he returned and repossessed the farm. His sister Frinda and her daughter Nina lived with him on the farm for some years, and later moved to California where his sister Louise was a schoolteacher. For a number of years Charlie rented the cultivated land to neighbors, while he ran a small flock of sheep on a fenced pasture. The late R.D. Smallwood had it rented in 1926.

In 1927 Charlie farmed it himself by hiring most of the work done. In November, 1927 he sold the farm as a going concern, sheep, cattle, horses and machinery to Jim Jackson, who farmed it until 1958, when owing to a heart condition, he was forced to quit farming and take life easy for a while.

The buyer was Dell Galloway, a veteran, who farmed for five or six years and then sold to a veteran named Lawrence Mitchell. He stayed only about two years and sold the farm, consisting of the W. 1/2 of 14; the N.E. of 14 and the S. 1/2 of 33, five quarters in all, to Stuart Fenton.

Charlie Young liked hunting and shooting. He had a Model A. Ford Roadster, which he drove to California each fall. He spent the winter with his sisters, but came back each spring and visited with friends until the end of the duck season. Later Charlie moved to Westminster (later Garden Grove) where he lived in a small house close to his niece Nina, husband and son Murray. He finally moved into a nursing home where he passed away at an advanced age.

Charlie loved Canada and particularly the far north and liked to reminisce about the Liard and Nahanie Rivers and his experiences in the north. He was a fine person, in fact a real gentleman.



Donald, Stan and Jane Dudgeon.

to serve in Africa as a missionary nurse. After spending a year in Paris taking French studies I arrived in the French colony of Dahomey (now called Benin) in 1953.

In 1956 I was married to Stan Dudgeon who was from Ireland and was also a missionary among the Bariba people.

We served there for about twenty years together. We have three children — Danny, Dianne and Donald. I continued nursing in primitive areas until we returned to B.C. in 1974. We lived in Vernon for a couple of years then moved to Prince George in 1977 where my husband is a minister with the Shantymen's Christian Association. I have been nursing in the Extended Care Dept. of the P.G. hospital since moving here. Danny and Dianne have both married and we have one grandchild. Danny is a heavy duty mechanic.

Etta married Peter Sawatzky in 1957. Peter is a pastor in the Evangelical Free Church and they have pastored a number of churches in B.C. They have four children. The two oldest boys Dale and Lee were both married this past Fall. Rod and Jennifer are still at home. They are living in Regina. Rod has attended Briercrest Bible College for two years. Dale, their oldest, graduated from Trinity Western College and Lee is at U.B.C. Law School.

FRED YOUNKER FAMILY

by Dorothy Brassington

George E. Younker and Lillian (Jewel) Younker, came west in 1923. The following year nine year old Fred J. Younker accompanied by his uncle Charlie Younker, left Prince Edward Island to join his parents in the Irma district. George's brother, Frank, had settled here in 1919. Frank's wife Grace, also from P.E.I. was related to L.M. Montgomery, the author of *Anne of Green Gables*.

Fred was the oldest of seven children; Hazel, Milt, Alma, Kate, the late Claude Younker, and Irene were also born to George and Lillian. Fred attended school at Roseberry until grade eight. Grade nine was not taught at Roseberry so he then attended school at Avonglen. It was there he met Doris Ford, his only classmate in grade nine.

Family are inclined to believe that Fred thought about

other things besides reading and writing that year! School wasn't always a warm affair. Sometimes the ink used to freeze in the ink well. Water had to be transported to school, usually in syrup pails. When a pail was mistakenly taken full of syrup, instead of water, it was a dry day for the students. Helen Deeton was a teacher at Roseberry. Once when she forgot her lunch Fred volunteered to fetch it for her. Using Ben Oldham's horse, a former racehorse, he galloped off. On the way back with the horse still running at full tilt, Fred was unable to hold him in while keeping the teacher's lunchpail in hand. While rounding the school gateway, the horse broke his leg. Fred stayed on but the horse had to be shot.

Doris Ford was the youngest of four children born to Francis and Emily (Caesar) Ford. George, the late Frank Ford, Annie and Doris were all born at home. Doris was able to finish grade eleven but unable to fulfill her dream of becoming a teacher, as circumstances necessitated her staying at home. Her mother had died of cancer, when she was nine. Her grandmother Salina (Caesar), a seamstress from Wales, was helping them out. Doris's father was remarried to Pearl Symons of Fabyan in 1953. Pearl now lives in the Battle River Lodge in Wainwright.

Fred and Doris were married at her home in 1942. They moved into a new house on the same section where Fred's parents lived. God blessed them with four boys and four girls. Life was busy but interesting for them. On one occasion, Georgie, who was a toddler at the time, managed to start the farm truck. Fortunately it was in reverse as his brother Francis was standing in front. Fred managed to catch the truck before it went over the road bank. Another time Fred and Doris had a real trying time when two year old daughter, Dorothy, almost died from bronchial pneumonia. She didn't help matters any by throwing her mustard plasters on the floor.



John Deere Tractor with breaking plow on section 21-48-8-W4th.

Farming was tough, in 1956 a hailstorm struck northeast of Irma and wiped out all of Fred's crop. The storm was so fierce that windows were broken and even the hardwood floor became warped. Gordon, who was two weeks old, was taken from his basket just before it was hit by flying glass. The family found refuge in the pantry where there were no windows. Wildlife suffered as



Fred Younker family. George, Francis, Harvey, Dorothy, Gordon, Fred, Lillian, Doris, Stella and Janet.

there were over fifty dead ducks taken from one slough. The downpour after the hail was so heavy, water could be heard rushing over the road allowance three quarters of a mile away. Doris's father helped Fred get back on his feet with money for a furnace. Her brother, Frank, also contributed with a loan of barley and wheat.

Winters were well occupied as Fred and his sons made a community skating rink at their farm. They helped organize a farm team called the "Stubble Jumpers" and spent many enjoyable hours playing with their farm neighbors. Georgie, Francis and Harvey later played together on one line with the "Irma Aces" for a number of years.

Presently the four brothers farm together in the Irma district. All eight children have attended Prairie Bible Institute for at least one year.

George, the oldest, married Lloy Portsmouth of Eureka River. They live in the Mannville district with their three children; Crystal, Wayne and Tammi.

Francis, their second son, attended Camrose Lutheran College and the University of Alberta. He married Fran Belt, a nurse, from Barrie, Ontario. They have three children; Mark, Laura and Ryan.

Harvey married Valerie Modin, a nurse, from Elk Point. Val now works part time in the Wainwright General Hospital.

Lillian, their oldest daughter, obtained her Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta. She taught at Fort Chipewyan and in the Philippines. Lil has been a short term missionary in the Philippines and is now studying linguistics in Dallas, Texas.

Dorothy spent three years in Europe doing missionary work and studying French in Paris. Following nurses' training at the University of Alberta Hospital, she worked in Wainwright and Edmonton. She recently married Ron Brassington, a farmer from Paradise Valley.

Stella married Terry Riffel from Salina, Kansas. Terry now teaches in a Christian school in Michigan. They have three boys; Leigh, David and Stephen.

Gordon married Linda Crabb of Irma. They have two daughters; Heidi and Lynn. Gordon has enjoyed making some furniture and toys for his daughters.

Janet took her Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta. She taught at Grand Centre and is presently teaching at a Christian school in Three Hills.

Fred and Doris still live on their homestead and attend Avonglen Gospel Mission. They enjoy their many children and grandchildren, who live nearby.



Fred Younker Home (1938) built in 1929. Mr. F. Ford, Mrs. Selina Ceasar, George, Annie and Doris Ford.

GEORGE YOUNKER FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. George Younker were both born in Prince Edward Island. They came out west to Alberta in 1921 and settled in the Roseberry district and lived all of their lives in that area. Two of their children, Fred and Hazel were born in Prince Edward Island and Milton, Alma, Kathleen, Claude and Irene were born after coming to Alberta. George's brother, Charlie, came to Alberta and lived with the family. Albert (Shorty) Squires also stayed with us for a number of years.

Charlie passed away in January, 1964. George was killed in a truck accident in 1941. Lillian Younker passed away in April, 1974.

Another brother, Frank, also farmed nearby for a short time and then moved to Edmonton and later to British Columbia where he lived until his death.

Fred married Doris Ford. They have a family of four sons and four daughters.

Hazel married Bill Lawson and they have five daughters and two sons.

Alma married Frank Ford and to this union nine sons and one daughter were born.

Kathleen married Chester Green and has one son and one daughter.

Irene married Jack MacKay and has six sons and three daughters.

Claude passed away suddenly on April 13th, 1982.

Milton still lives on the family farm.

**They're "boss" at home, some men declare
In words that seem to cheer them . . .
But note the way they take great care
To see their wives don't hear them.**



Ruth Whidden, Mabel Murray, Florence Whidden, Jessie Murray and Ruby Whidden, Harold Whidden, Carl Whidden and Aubrey Whidden.



Hank Farthing

New Bank Fixtures.

The contractors have just finished installing one of the finest sets of fixtures ever installed in a country bank in the new building just completed at Irma for the Merchants Bank. These fixtures include a complete set of desks, counters, cashier's cage, partitions and filing cabinets were manufactured by the Canadian Office & School Furnishing Co. of Preston, Ont. and are a great credit to our local bank. 1919



Jack Kennedy with his cattle truck, horses and Allan Fenton ready for Irma Parade 1967.



Marjorie Fischer, Ted Orton, Alice Cook, Sadie Orton, Adelaide Dootson, Archie Cook on August 18, 1961.



Jim Kennedy, Emil Worth and Dave Schubada celebrating their birthdays together.

CHAPTER 11

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS



Bert and Todd Smith ready to ride Alf Oracheski's horse Nancy - "where there's a will, there's a way".



Jesse Allen's shetlands, Roxy and Fox, July, 1924.



Neighborhood children visiting the Prossers. Robbie Goodale, Robin Prosser, Patti Kirkman, Gayle Prosser, Charlotte Haun, Vernon Haun.



Barb and Carl Fenton in 1947. The car is a 1941 Plymouth. The toy wagon purchased before 1920 had wooden wheels and metal tires.



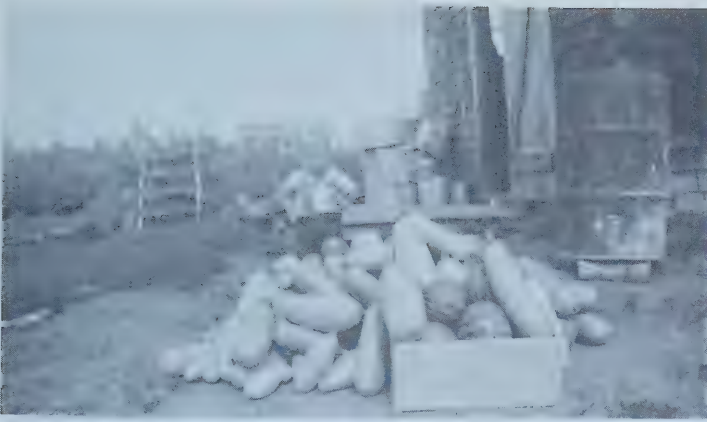
Snapped by Rosetta in June, 1927 to send back to Ontario to "prove" she had twins.



Gwyneth Astley with her dog Tuffy in 1960.



Wayne Gwinn with one of his pumpkins.



Bruce Miles with marrows and watermelon.



Lloyd Granger in 1930.



John and Hazel Moore.



Velma Elliott, Do I have to play with all of them?



Stan Bacon with one of his colts.



Arnold girls, note stroller and little doll.



Wes Bacon taking Irma children for a ride at Christmas time.



Child with favorite wagon.



Marie Knudson with little Rob feeding a lamb.



Gerald Ross Taylor, son of Gerald Taylor, now a music teacher at Nanaimo, B.C.



Doris Fenton in the spring of 1936. Winter had been a bad one and the saddle was still covered with a sheepskin.



Triplet calves born on farm of J.E. Ballentine - all were healthy and grew to maturity. Dorothy, Sheila, Leslie and Jack.



Gerald Allen's work and saddle horse - never had a colt. "Silver" made a good sitter for the cows. She was a lovely sorrel with a white star on her forehead.



Marvin, Nolan Crouse, 1960.



R.A. Johnson riding a steer.



On the Creasy farm in 1968: Pat, Shirley and Bradley Veenstra.



Sheep at Armitage farm.



Edith Gwinn in her centennial dress, 1967.



Irma Times Costume fashioned by Bess Guiltner and worn by Adelaide Dootson to celebrate 50 years of Irma Times.



Ellsworth and twins, Irvine and Earl Goodale.



Building the straw and pole barn on S.W. 30-46-9-4, the Elliotts with summer visitors, the Syd Coggles.



Harold Morse with team and wagon.



Will King with his horses.



Wallace Myers, 1918.



Drama class play. Irene Burr, Audrey Jones, Jack Stead, June 4, 1943.



Thor Hanson family: Thor and Gubrand, Maren and Karen.



Babe Prior and Albert Jones 1972 beard-growing contest.



Elaine Oracheski in first prize Amish outfit at school.



Barber's Threshing Machine.



Floyd Bronson sitting on cab of caterpillar after it had fallen through the ice.



Barbers stacking feed.



Irene Dootson plowing snow on Fenton section.



Emmet and Margaret Denison, on Buck, 1934 going to school.



Cage operation on Beckett farm.



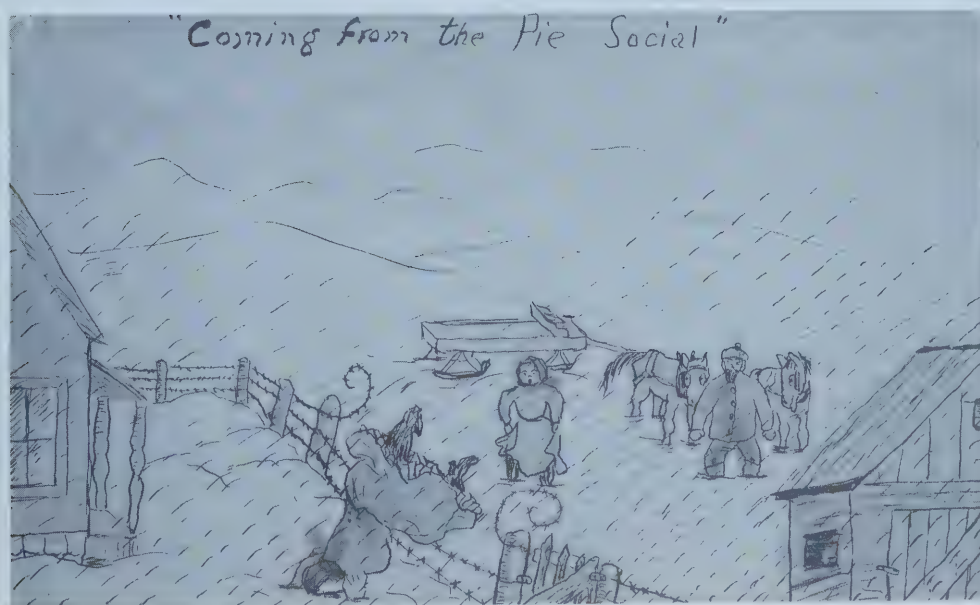
Elmer and John Erickson with Lloyd grinding feed in 1919.



W.T. Barber with his stallion in 1909.



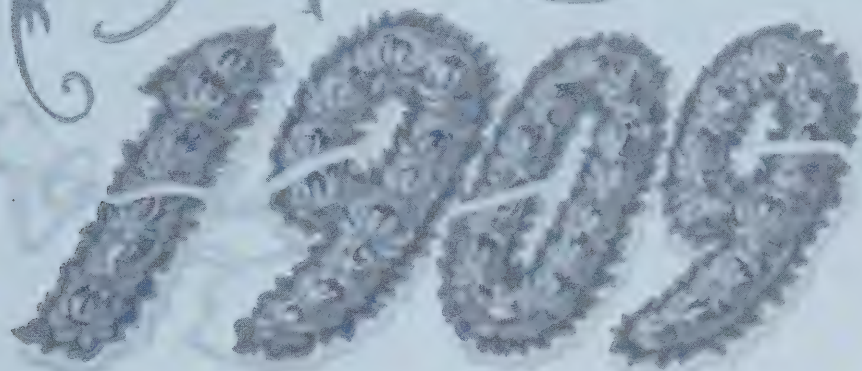
Josie Holt receiving keys for car won in Lotto Canada.



Hand-drawn post card sent to Miss Mary Elliott.



A Happy
NEW YEAR



*Christmas
Greetings*



A happy New Year.

THE GOLD WATCH

by Henry Kasten

Near the northwest corner of what we call the Pfeiffer quarter (NE 13-45-10-4) there is an abandoned water well. The Creasy's can tell you where it is, I am sure, as they have no doubt silently cursed it a number of times for the inconvenience of having a farm around it. I wonder if they would feel any better about it if they knew there was a gold watch at the bottom?

My Dad often told of the time that Hans Christenson was drilling the well. As Hans reached the proper depth he was pleased to hit water, as hoped for. Evidently the drill was pulled up and Hans leaned over the hole - would it have been to try to see the glint of water so far down? Well, an "Oops" occurred instead, as Han's gold watch slipped from his vest pocket and disappeared down the shaft. And that is where it has stayed to this day, according to my Dad. At least I know of no one who has gone after it, I know I haven't.

WHEN WE WERE HOMESTEADING

We came to the prairies wild and wide
With a walking plow and some horses to ride,
We had helpful neighbors by our side
When we were homesteading.

We plowed the ground with heavy toil
And planted seeds in the fertile soil,
Often ate our lunch by a water hole
When we were homesteading.

Our house was just a soddy shack
There was a little garden out in back,
We had a few hens and some ducks to quack
When we were homesteading.

We took the good times with the bad
And did the best with what we had,
And raised some sturdy girls and lads
When we were homesteading.



Erling Larson - roping a cow the hard way.

THE SICK ROOM

EGG GRUEL -- Boil eggs from one to three hours until hard enough to grate; then boil new milk and thicken with the egg, and add a little salt. Excellent in case of nausea.

GRUEL FOR INFANTS -- To make a gruel for infants suffering from marasmus, take one pint of goat's milk and the yolks of two eggs boiled sufficiently hard to reduce to an impalpable powder; add a pint of boiling water, a little salt or sugar, and administer by a nursing bottle.

BEEF TEA -- To one pound of lean beef add one and one-half tumblers of cold water; cut the beef in small pieces, cover and let it boil slowly for ten minutes, and add a little salt after it is boiled. Excellent.

BEEF JELLY FOR INVALIDS -- Three small onions, three small or one and one-half large carrots, a few whole cloves and black pepper, one small teaspoon of sugar, one slice of ham, two calf's feet, one and a half pounds of beef. Put in the onions and other ingredients in succession. Place the ham on top, then the calf's feet, and lastly the beef; no water; put on the side of the range, and let it stand until reduced to a soft mass, then add a quart of water and let it boil one hour; strain and let stand until cold, then take off the fat. Use by dissolving a little in hot water.

PANADA -- Two thick slices of stale bread half an inch in thickness; cut off the crust, toast them a nice brown, cut them into squares of two inches in size, lay them in a bowl, sprinkle a little salt over them and pour on a pint of boiling water.

FEVER AND AGUE -- Four ounces galangal root in a quart of gin, steeped in a warm place: take often.

FOR A CAKED BREAST -- A HIGHLAND REMEDY -
- Bake large potatoes, put two or more in a woollen stocking; crush them soft and apply to the breast as hot as can be borne; repeat constantly, till relieved.

TO CURE A STING OF BEE OR WASP -- Mix common earth with water to about the constituency of mud; apply at once.

AN INDIAN REMEDY FOR A CAKED BREAST OR SWOLLEN GLANDS -- Gather mullein leaves, saturate in hot vinegar, and apply to the skin very hot; cover with flannel and keep repeating till cured.

THE UNFINISHED PRAYER

*"Now I lay me -- say it, darling,"
"Lay my," lisp'd the tiny lips
Of my daughter, kneeling, bending,
O'er her folded finger-tips.*

*"Down to sleep." "To s'leep, she
 murmured;
And the curly head bent low.
"I pray the Lord," I gently added --
"You can say it all, I know."*

*"P'ay de Lord," the words came faintly --
Fainter still, "my soul to teep."
Then the tired head fairly nodded,
And my child was fast asleep.*

*But the dewy eyes half opened
When I clasped her to my breast.
And the dear voice gently whispered --
"Mamma, Dod knows all de yest."*

ONCE THEY WERE YOUNG

*Be not impatient with the old they seem to putter.
What they are told is soon forgotten.
Slow, faltering footsteps, there is no rush now.
The years are long behind the crossroad so near ahead.
They hug the past closely
A comfort to their frailty.
Its warp and woof was once interwoven, with threads of
vibrant life now so thinly worn.
Stitches held together by lacy memories of old homes,
new lands plow bitten, and the children.
Tears fall unhidden from old eyes for no reason much.
Their youthful visions and wisdom gained, have given us
Our lives, our loves, our heritage.*



Oxen team.



John McNaughton and oxen.



Sid and Ernie Simmons in the winter of 1915-16 with their oxen and load of feed.



Believed to be Bert Yake's oxen doing field work.

Urban Girls Livestock Dictionary

Those of you with a farm background will appreciate the following definitions that some urban girls offer for words commonly used by livestock producers.

Livestock pool—a place where animals swim.

Oxford—a type of shoe

Gilt—a short form of guilty.

Purebred—without raisins.

Fleece—to take for a ride.

Farrow—an Egyptian king.

Weaner—to be eaten at baseball games.

Feeder Association—an amalgamation of restaurants.

Bull—an untrue story.

Boar—to tire of.

Marketing—a visit to the Co-op.

Longwood, Alta. March 29th 1904.

Bill of Sale

Know all Men By these presents, That I Thurston Culshaw of Longwood in the Province of Alberta Canada in consideration of One Hundred and Eighty Dollars to me in hand paid by John F. James of the same place, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby Grant, Sell assign, transfer and deliver unto the said John F. James, his heirs and assigns the following goods and Chattels to wit:

One Black Steer, four years old, known as Jim

One Red Steer, five years old, known as Joe

One Red Steer with white legs, five years old, known as Jack
 To have and to hold all of the said goods and chattels to the said John F. James, his heirs and assigns forever. And I do hereby covenant to and with the said John F. James that I am the legal owner of said goods and chattels; that they are free and clear from all other & prior sales and incumbrances; that I have good right to sell and convey the same as aforesaid, and that in the peaceable possession of the said John F. James, I will forever warrant and defend the same against the lawful claims and demands of all persons whomsoever.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 29th day of March, 1904.

Witness to said Bill of Sale - Thurston Culshaw



W.D. Ramsay farming north of Irma with a five horse tandem hitch breaking land in 1912.

It Can't Be Done

The man who misses all the fun
 Is he who says "It can't be done".
 In solemn pride he stands aloof
 And greets each venture with re-
 proof.

Had he the power he'd efface,
 The history of the human race;
 We'd have no radio, bus or cars
 No streets lit by electric stars.

No telegraph nor telephone,
 We'd linger in the age of stone.
 The world would sleep if things were
 run
 By men who say "It can't be done".



Taken in 1907 - J.F. James farm. Oxen named in "Bill of Sale"

Moving Brown house onto the farm now owned by Haddon McElroy.





FORM 4102 (Dept Form H. 2)
ALBERTA

For Sale by Christie's Bookstore
Municipal Stationers
Brandon, Man.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No. 453

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT

M. *H. Harrington Barrs*
Zoldovara

Take notice that you have been assessed under the provisions of The Local Improvement Act for the under-mentioned lands in the above District, and that taxes are now due and payable to the undersigned as follows:

Part of Section	Sec.	Tp.	Rge.	Mer.	Acres	Rate of assess- ment per acre	Amount of Taxes for cur- rent year	Arrears of Taxes	Total.	Years for which Arrears are due
<i>NE</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>6 1/4</i>	<i>1000</i>			

Dated at this

PENALTY ON ARREARS

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE

1000

day of .. 191

SALTEAUX P.O., ALTA.

ARTHUR CURTIS

Secretary-Treasurer District 453

Payments are required to be made by accepted Bank Cheque, Bank Draft, Money Order, or Post Office Note, payable at par in or in cash.

Postage Stamps cannot be accepted in any case.

Subsection 2 of Section 58 of The Local Improvement Act provides that on the first day of January following, as a penalty, an additional sum amounting to ten per cent. of such taxes shall be added thereto. On the first day of January in each year thereafter, as a penalty, an additional sum amounting to ten per cent. of all arrears of taxes shall be added thereto.



Wes, Margaret and Fred Bacon at threshing time.



Threshing crew in 1930. McDonald, Herb Johnstone, ?, John Jandle, Collie Bjark, Dave Barss, John Fleming, Leslie Pyke, L.H. Barss (foreman).



Lisson's threshing outfit, 1926.



Dad, Deloraine, Mother and Vivian on the farm, 1937.



Larry Funk and Art Jackson in 1955.

The Other Side of the Farm Fence

*Our city cousins marvel at the lovely
kitchen window view,
They praise the spacious gardens, the
lush green meadows, too.
They say they envy us all that space,
and, oh, the fresh clean air!
They really think that country life
is quite beyond compare.
It really must be wonderful to grow
the things we eat,
Especially nice, they also say, to
have eggs and milk and meat.
I wish that they would stay with us,
just for a week or two,
And follow us around the farm, and
see the chores we do.
I know they'd find that even with its
beauty, joys and charm,
There's an awful lot of work to do
—when you live on a family farm.*

Nothing in the world is friendlier than a wet dog.

RECOLLECTIONS

Walter F. Strickert

*A "pioneer" of the prairie, is the status that I claim;
One who has trod and ridden o'er unbroken, raw terrain,
Where no roads, as yet, divided, and no fences then were set.*

Around me lay the virgin soil, and few settlers then were met.

*Bleached skulls of many bison lay scattered all around;
The eerie cry of a coyote was oft a chilling sound.
Where gophers scampered quickly with a shrill and little squeak,*

Where badgers often burrowed, and the cunning fox did sneak.

*I saw the blooming crocuses, so dainty and so frail
Growing so profusely on the hills along the trail.
Where the wild grass of the prairie, like wool it grew so thick*

*The seed of it when ripened - how sharply it would prick.
Where wild ducks in great number would fly up far and wide*

Where jacks and cottontails would stop, then run and hide.

*No phones or mail delivery - few salesmen door to door
For supplies when often needed, 'twas a trip to town and store.*

*Four small holes in the soil around an iron stake -
The surveyed corners of homesteads some could take.
A mammoth rock reminded, with its wallow all around,
That shaggy herds of bison roamed once across the ground.*

The land patrolled by Mounties, who made their regular call

*With a log-book for an entry; on duty fall to fall.
Maintaining law and order, in fair weather or in storm,
Riding proudly on their mount in scarlet uniform.*

In summer's winds and searing heat, or winter's chilling blast

*There was freshness in the air that seemed to last and last.
'Twas thus I found the prairie in the homestead days of yore*

When life's demand of everyone was strength and nerve in store.



Albert Taylor breaking on the Taylor farm.



Jim Jackson in 1928 with Cockshutt sulky plow.



John Chrysler and sons; Wallace and Casey, breaking the native sod in Irma area, 1909, with four horses and sulky plow.



Abel Rance on a Van Slyke breaking plow with eight horses (hired man Jim Jackson).



H. Riley, A.C. Charter, cutting brush on Charter farm, March, 1927.



Ellsworth Goodale breaking sod.



Ellsworth Goodale plowing with twelve horse hitch.



Brushing with early International tractor.



J.E. Ballentine breaking land.



In 1943-44, Allan Taylor cutting brush with a Caterpillar and home-built brushcutter.

*Statistics which claim a farmer leads a time worn life,
have forgotten the "man hours" clocked by his wife.*

DAYS GONE BY

*I hear the tractor in the field,
The hour growing late;
It makes me stop to reminisce
To when farms had a slower gait.*

*In the evening when the cows were milked
Was the time I liked the best -
The horses were bedded on yellow straw,
Taking their well-earned rest.
The families spent the evening together
Around the table or out on the lawn;
No one thought of spending more hours in the field -
This work would be done, come dawn.*

*Up in the morning, the sight of the dew,
As it sparkled on the grass and trees,
Made you feel like working hard and fast
So you could rest in the warm noon breeze.*

*I would rather exchange all our power machines,
Big money, big gas bills and sprays,
For a small herd of cows, some chickens and pigs,
Time for friendship and less hurried days.*



Modern brushing done at H. Barss.



Carl Ahlf plowing.



Carl Riddle using a gang plow with a wooden harrow behind.



Claude Shippy harrowing.



Marshall Dawson plowing with horses and oxen on W-2-14-45.



Bill Walker hauling rocks with four horses on S of 2-46-8.



Art Gwinn on the seed drill in 1940.



Claude Shippy seeding with four horses.



Bob Dempsey - eight horses discing. Note - nose guards on horses.



Jack McFadden fanning grain at Alf Larson's. Philip Larson in foreground.



Lilly (Nilson) Erickson helping her Dad, Sivert, plow on the John Halvorsen, now Arnold Lein farm.



W40 Tractor, George Ford, Francis, Fred, Milt, Claude and Charlie Younker with the furrow plow planting potatoes.



George Archibald seeding - note the marker.

THE AUCTION SALE

*I saw her pained expression
As she watched the auctioneer
Put a price on something priceless
That only she held dear.*

*And I saw her look of sadness
As she watched the man who sold
Hand her prize to a stranger
While its memories went untold.*

*And when she sank back in her chair
And closed her eyes to sigh
I caught that tiny teardrop
In the corner of her eye.*

*It was then that I first realized
That money ne'er can buy
The memories of a person's past
That have been forced to die.*



Eldon Fenton ploughing with ten horses on NW 1/4-19-45-8, (now farmed by Clarence Barber and his nephews), in 1914.

THIS IS A FARMER

Farmers are found in fields plowing up, seeding down, returning from, planting to, fertilizing with, spraying for and harvesting if: Wives help them, little boys follow them, the Agriculture Department confuses them, city relatives visit them, salesmen detain them, meals wait for them, weather can delay them, but it takes heaven to stop them.

When your car stalls along the way, a farmer is a considerate, courteous, inexpensive road service. When a farmer's wife suggests he buy a new suit, he can quote from memory every expense involved in operating the farm last year. Or else he assumes the role of the indignant shopper, impressing upon everyone within earshot the pounds of pork he must produce in order to pay for a suit at today's prices.

A farmer is a paradox - he is an "overallled" executive with his home, his office; a scientist using fertilizer attachments; a purchasing agent in an old straw hat; a personnel director with grease under his fingernails; a dietitian with a passion for alfalfa, animals and antibiotics; a production expert faced with a surplus; and a manager battling a price-cost squeeze. He manages more capital than most of the businessmen in town.

He likes sunshine, good food, state fairs, dinner at noon, auctions, his neighbors, Saturday night in town, his shirt collar unbuttoned, and above all a good soaking rain in June.

He is not much for droughts, ditches, thoroughways, experts, weeds, the eight-hour day, helping with the housework, or grasshoppers.

Nobody else can remove all those things from his pockets and on washday still have overlooked: five staples, one cotter key, a rusty spike, three grains of corn, the stub end of a lead pencil, a square tape, a \$4.98 pocket watch, and a cupful of chaff in each trouser cuff.

Nobody else is so far from the telephone or so close to God. Nobody else gets so much satisfaction out of modern plumbing, favorable weather and good ice cream.

A farmer is both faith and fatalist - he must have faith to continually meet the challenges of his capacities amid an ever-present possibility that an act of God (a late spring, an early frost, tornado, flood, drought) can bring his business to a standstill. You can reduce his acreage but you can't restrain his ambition.

Might as well put up with him - he is your friend, your competitor, your customer, your source of food and fibre, and a self-reliant young citizen to help replenish your cities.

He is your countryman - a denim-dressed businessman, fast growing statesman of stature.

And when he comes in at noon having spent the energy of his hopes and dreams, he can be recharged anew with the magic words: "There is a quota in town."

HOT DOG — the noblest of all dogs because it feeds the hand that bites it.



Ralph and Ron King, 1941.



John Pasztor with International caterpillar pulling a tiller with press drill behind.



Breaking in 1936.



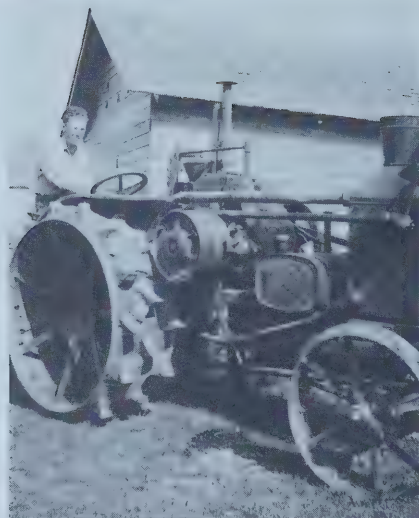
Ole Enger getting spring work done (seeding), 1931.



Burt Stimson with a steam engine.



Erle, Ted, Babe and Bill Prior about 1927 with their John Deere tractor.



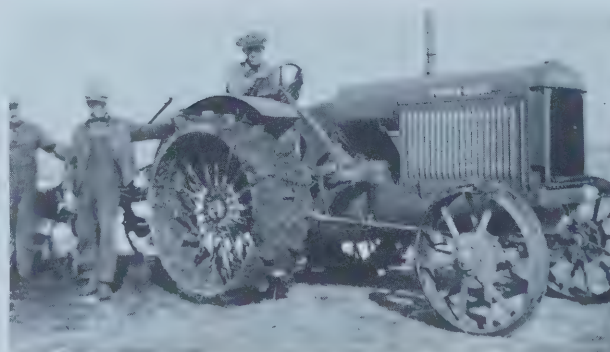
Jack Ballentine on his dad's Rumley tractor, later sold to Art Pheasey.



A Lawson tractor - first new tractor for the Herders in 1931.



Adolph Russell on M. Russell's Wallis tractor.



Dave Glasgow with his first tractor about 1930.



Cal Goodale's Rumley tractor and R. Patterson's tractor moving Janet McCartney's house, fall of 1928.



Allan Taylor on his first tractor.



Bill Prior, Junior and Babe with a homemade steam tractor in the late 1920's.



Versatile 800 and Grandpa Funk's separator 1982.

CLOSING OUT AUCTION SALE

Having been instructed by the Owner who has rented his farm and is leaving the district, I will sell by Public Auction

S.W. Quarter Sec. 6-47-8-w4

9½ miles Northeast of Irma

FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST 1922

Free Lunch at Noon

Sale Immediately After

HORSES

....Black Mare, 11 years old, 1,300 lbs.
Grey Mare, 7 years old, 1,300 lbs.
Dark Grey Gelding, 6 yrs old, 1,300lb
Grey Gelding, 4 years old, 1,250 lbs.
Bay Mare, 13 years old, 1,200 lbs.
Bay Mare, 13 years old, 950 lbs.
Bay Mare, 10 years old, 1,050 lbs.
Grey Mare, 10 years old, 1,100 lbs.
Grey Mare, 6 years old, 1,050 lbs.
Two Bay Geldings, 3 years old.
Brown Mare, 3 years old.
Four Mare Colts, 2 years old.
Two Mare Colts, 1 year old.

CATTLE

Good Milch Cow due to calve in March; Three good Milch Cows, due to calve in May and June; Cow; Steer 2 year old; Six Yearlings.

IMPLEMENTS, ETC.

Cockshutt Drill, 20 tube single disc; Bissell Disc; Walking Plow; 12in Oliver Gang Plow; 12 in. Cockshutt Gang Plow; 5 Section Harrow; 15 ft Massey-Harris Packer; 8 ft Frost & Wood Binder; 5 ft Frost & Wood Mower; 10 ft Frost & Wood Rake; Bain Wagon and Box; Adams Wagon and Box; 2 Sets Sleighs; Fanning Mill; Post Drill; E. Z. Grain Pickler; 5½ in. Grain Grinder; Sharples Cream Separator; 2¼ H.P. Galloway Engine; Sickle Grinder; Forks.

Washing Machine and other Household Effects.

HARNESS

3 Sets Double Harness
Set Single Harness

TERMS — Articles of \$15.00 and under Cash; over that amount credit will be given until Nov. 1st. 1922 on approved bankable joint lien notes unt of 5 per cent for cash on Credit amounts.

C. Z. COSTIN, Proprietor

J. W. STUART, AUCTIONEER.

R. J. TATE, CLERK.



Haying time at the Whiddens, July 27th, 1922.



Erling Nilson on load of hay with faithful team of Snip and Darky.



Haying time, 1910.



Gordon Fenton haying with mower and rake in 1921.



Putting hay up into the loft by sling at the Holt Ranch.



Cutting hay down by the Battle River in 1946.



Phil Holt on hay rake.



Wilbert Meyer and Fenton Nash haying.



Del Smith hauling feed.



Stacking bundles at the Rae's.



Stacking clover on farm - 1928.



Gordon and Claude Ramsay stacking hay.



Winter 1947 - Mark Russell.

Stack mover unloading bales.



PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF BRANDS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MEDICINE HAT, ALTA.

G

Nº 3931

Extracts from Record of Brands, L...K...F... 364 No. 5904

CATTLE BRAND



POSITION RIGHT.. Hip.....
 RECORDED VENT (IF ANY) ..
 NAME OF OWNER .. L.H. Barss ..
 POST OFFICE ADDRESS Zoldavara, Alberta.....
 DATE OF RECORD ... 24th. October 1906 ..
 DATE OF CANCELLATION 31st. December 1915.....

I, the undersigned, Recorder of Brands hereby certify that the above is a true and correct extract from the Record of Brands kept under the authority of the Brand Act of the Province of Alberta and amendments hereto, as it appeared on the Thirty-first..... day of..... December..... A.D. 1915

Medicine Hat, Alta., 31st. December... 1915

Jack Wilson
 Recorder of Brands.

Homestead

Where once there stood a happy home,
 Naught but silence now remains,
 Gone are all those tender voices
 That can ne'er come back again.
 Now the buildings stand decaying
 Bare and desolate, empty and grey;
 And as cold as the bitter northern wind
 That moans at the end of a wintry day.
 Lost to view are winding footpaths
 Where once lighthearted children played,
 But the gladness of their laughter
 By lingering echoes seem delayed.
 Within on the mantel the old clock stands;
 Long it marked with ceaseless thread
 Hours of joy, of birth and death;
 Now it is still, here time is dead.
 How changed this scene from other days
 When life and love and hope dwelt here,
 With its hearth so warm, its windows bright
 T'was a cherished haven, ever dead.
 Here the traveller found sweet rest
 And friends oft shared their host's kind cheer,
 But years have fled, those hosts linger on,
 Long shall their memory linger here.

Brand registered for L.H. Barss, Esq., Zoldavara, Alta. on February 1st, 1916.

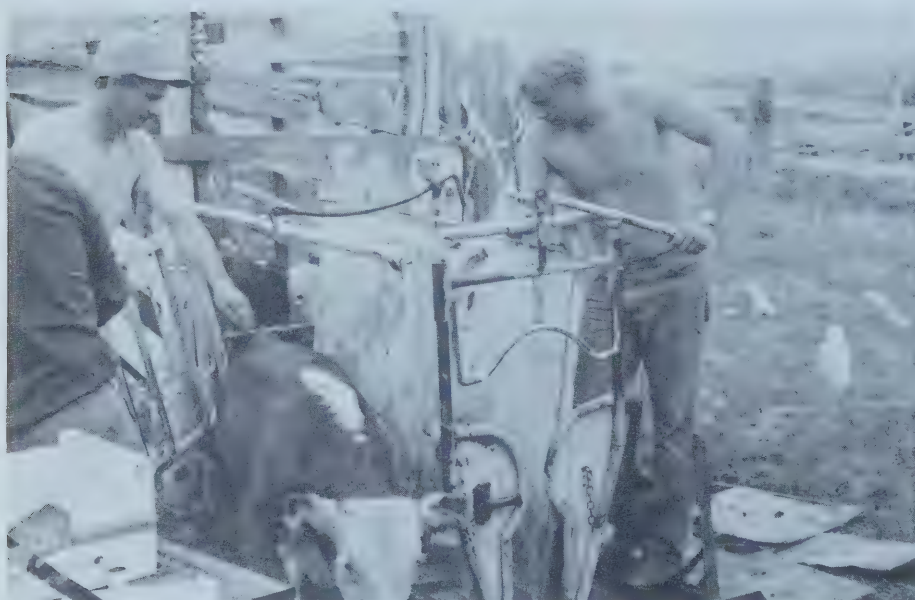
Phil, Joe and Gordon Holt on horses, Frank Saville, Marvin, Bill Holt, 1979.



Branding time at Smiths, 1975. Tobe Smith, Clifton Holt, Jerry Mark, Cecil Lockhart, Bert Smith.



Branding the old-fashion way.



Branding calves in calf cradle at the river. Gordon Fischer and Bob Smallwood.

Grandpa Pete Funk watching branding from the back of the truck.





Making silage with sunflowers at Fenton's in 1922 with a 4-horse engine on a stationary hand-fed cutter. Stuart in pit, James Fenton, Eldon, Mrs. Tripp, Mrs. Seaton, Mrs. Fenton, Rena. This is the first of the "Fenton silage series" on this page.



In 1922, when finishing the pit, the power was increased to to 12 H.P. with a pulley on the axle of the Model T. Stuart is packing with the horse, Ralph Dunlop is forking, and Gordon and Stuart are feeding the cutter. James Fenton is on the load.



1923 saw more improvements. A new silage cutter was used with a feeder and blower "Helping Henry" attachment on the Ford.



Mrs. Fenton with the water pail in 1923. She poured water through the radiator continuously to keep the motor cool since the Model T did not have a water pump.



Silage equipment at Fenton's in 1976. The hydraulic dump box fills a truck with chopped oats and barley.



In 1976 Peter Gilpin, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) spreads and packs silage with a tractor and a bucket.



Bert Smith and Cecil Lockhart on top of silage.



Forage Harvester and dump wagon.

Dumping Silage into the pit, George Fischer uses the Versatile to pack and level the silage.





Harvesting in early homestead days - note mule.



Tina Gulbraa cutting grain.



Cutting with binder on the Ford farm.



Cutting grain (two horse-drawn binders).



Cutting grain at Holt Ranch in the forties. Men in photo, P.J. Harvey, Norman Hollar, Joe Oracheski, Lawrence White, Jim Kennedy, Jo Mac Holt.



Oat crop in stooks on the Rae farm.



The Cook, Bumpus Bros. threshing outfit September 30th, 1923.



John Erickson's threshing machine with Elmer and neighbors in 1917.

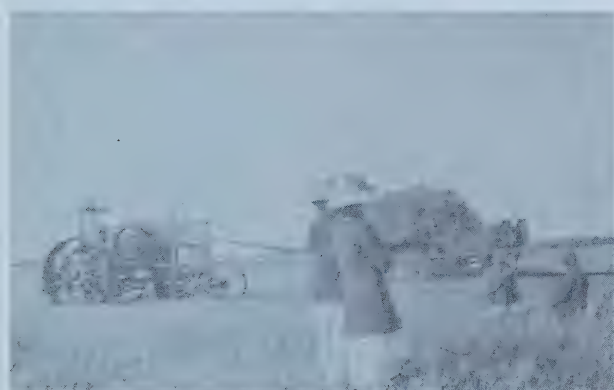
Cliff McKay's threshing crew on farm now owned by Ed. Jackson taken in 1929. Chris Hanson and Dan Matheson on the racks; Bob Mitchell and Cliff McKay standing near by.



Fred Hill threshing.



Routledge's threshing outfit October 30th, 1923.



Early threshing at the Prior's.



Threshing at L.H. Barss in 1930's.



Gerald Allen's Threshing outfit 1944 at Tom Bronsons.



Fire at threshing machine on Barss farm. Granary was two thirds full and straw stack burning.

HEARTACHES

How many broken dreams are
scattered
Upon life's path - yet, never told,
Reserved like precious memories
And preserved well - though old.

How many lost and shattered
hopes
Can we keep - and yet repress?
Oh many more than we can ignore
And much more than we can
guess.

Starrlette L. Howard



Threshing time, pitching bundles at Jack Rae's.



Lisson's bunkhouse, 1926.



Threshing in 1940: Slim Brown, Dave Barss, Leighton Barss on tractor, John Barss, Freeman Prosser, and Edgar Jones.



1942, Jack Taylor's Cockshutt tractor and combine.



H. W. Love's threshing outfit.



Martin Enger harvesting a poor crop of wheat in 1945 with John Deere tractor and combine.



Rae's threshing crew in 1931. Back Row: Andy-, Wilmer Rae, H. Carter, C. Micheal, J. Rae, O. Halverson, B. Lingley, J. Nephew, E. Rae. Front Row: H. Johnson, H. Casper.



Charlie Archibald's first self-propelled combine, 1942.



The grain-handling system at the J.A. Taylor farm.



Archie Fleming picking up stooks for threshing in the 1950's.

Harvest in 1982 at Bert Smith's. Combines belong to Jerry and Larry Mark and Bert Smith.





Joe Saville, Jr., driving Stuart Fenton's Belgians hitch, getting ready for the 1983 show season. They won first the horse-drawn vehicle entry in the Irma Days Parade.



Buffalo at the Wainwright Park about 1928. Mr. and Mrs. Seton on the fence with the umbrella.

Right: Wes Bacon with his team at the 1964-65 parade.

Below left: Norma McConnachie with the Smallwood team.

Below right: Woodruff Clark's homestead shack.





The Baergen sod home.



Stan Bacon about two years with his Dad.



Allen Johnson and his dog.



Eddie and Howard Jackson stooking.

MY PURPOSE

To be a little kindlier
 With the passing of each day;
 To leave but happy memories
 As I go along my way;
 To use possessions that are mine
 In service full and free;
 To sacrifice the trivial things
 For larger good to be;
 To give of love in lavish way
 That friendship true may live;
 To be less quick to criticize,
 More ready to forgive;
 To use such talents as I have
 To take the bitter with the sweet,
 Assured 'tis better so;
 To be quite free from self-intent
 Whate'er the task I do;
 To help the world's faith stronger grow,
 In all that's good and true;
 To keep my faith in God and right
 No matter how things run;
 To work and play and pray and trust
 Until the journey's done.
 God grant to me the strength of heart,
 Of motive and of will,
 To do my part and falter not
 His purpose to fulfill.

— Selected.

IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK

Everything is farther away now than it used to be. It is twice as far to the corner . . . and they added a hill, too, I've noticed.

I have given up running for the bus . . . it leaves faster than it used to. It seems to me they are making steps steeper than in the good old days, and have you noticed the smaller print they use in the newspaper?

There is no sense in asking anyone to read out loud . . . everyone speaks in such low voices that I can hardly hear them.

Also, the material in dresses is so skimpy, especially around the waist and the hips. It is all but impossible to reach my shoe laces.

Even people are changing . . . they are so much younger than they used to be when I was their ages. On the other hand, people my age are so much older than I am. I ran into an old classmate the other day and she had aged so much that she didn't even recognize me! I got to thinking about the poor old thing while I was combing my hair this morning . . . and in doing so I glanced at my reflection.

Confound it . . . they don't make mirrors like they used to either!

PROGRAM

Of The

UNION PICNIC

TO BE HELD AT

IRMA, ALBERTA

— ON —

Friday, July 21st, '16

Program

- 10.30—Base Ball Match; North Hardisty vs Echo School.
12.20—Irina Band meets the train.
12.30—Lunch. tables, hot water, and coffee will be provided. Bring a full basket.
1.30 p.m.—Base ball Game; Viking vs Irma.

SPECIAL

(1st and 2nd prize for each event.)

- Boys race under 8.....
Boys race under 10.....
Boys race under 15.....
Boys sack race.....
Boys three legged race.....
Biscuit whistling contest.....
Boys running broad jump.....
Boys running high jump.....
Girls race under 8.....
Girls race under 12.....

Program

- Girls race under 16.....
Ladies race.....
Thread and needle race.....
Married couples race.....
Wheelbarrow race.....
Three legged race.....
100 yd dash.....
Putting the shot.....
Running broad jump.....
Hop, step, and jump.....
Standing high jump.....
Running high jump.....
Relay race half mile.....
Half mile race.....
Tug of war.....
6.30—Base Ball—Final

All entries must be made 5 min. before the event.

Dance in the Evening



Charlie Holt with his dog "Sharp" at the Holt Ranch.



TO BEAUTIFY TEETH

Dissolve two ounces of borax in three pints of boiling water, and before it is cold add one teaspoon of spirits of camphor; bottle it for use. A teaspoon of this with an equal quantity of tepid water.

HAIR TONIC

One-half ounce sugar of lead, one-half ounce of lac sulphur, one quart of rose water, six tablespoons castor oil.

COUGH MIXTURE

Two ounces of gum arabic, one ounce of paregoric elixir, two ounces of sugar candy, juice of one lemon; mix with six glasses of hot water. One wineglass to be taken morning, noon, and night.

YEAST

Six good potatoes grated raw, a little hop tea, one quart of boiling water, three-fourths cup of brown sugar, one-half teaspoon salt; when cool, add yeast to rise; keep covered and in a cool place.

EXCELLENT FAMILY SOAP

INGREDIENTS -- One box of lye, five pounds of grease, one pound of resin, one and a half gallons of soft water; make in an iron pot. When the water boils, put in the lye; when this is dissolved add the grease; stir till all is melted; then add one pound of resin gradually, and boil for an hour and a half; keep stirring with a stick, and add hot water to keep up the original quantity; pour into wet tins, and let it stand for twenty-four hours; cut into bars and keep in a dry warm place for a month.

STOVE POLISH

Stove lustre, when mixed with turpentine and applied in the usual manner, is blacker, more glossy, and more durable than when mixed with any other liquid. The turpentine prevents rust, and when put on an old rusty stove will make it look as well as new.

TO PREVENT RED ANTS

Put one pint of tar in an earthen vessel, pour on it two quarts of boiling water, and place it in your closet.

PEDIGREE CHART

DATE _____

NAME OF PERSON SUBMITTING CHART _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

NO. 1 ON THIS CHART IS
THE SAME PERSON AS NO. _____ 2
ON CHART NO. _____

BORN
WHERE
WHEN MARRIED
DIED
WHERE

1 BORN
WHERE
WHEN MARRIED
DIED
WHERE

NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE _____

SOURCES OF INFORMATION _____

3 BORN
WHERE
DIED
WHERE

4 BORN
WHERE
WHEN MARRIED
DIED
WHERE

5 BORN
WHERE
DIED
WHERE

6 BORN
WHERE
WHEN MARRIED
DIED
WHERE

7 BORN
WHERE
DIED
WHERE

8 BORN
WHERE
WHEN MARRIED
DIED
WHERE

9 BORN
WHERE
DIED
WHERE

10 BORN
WHERE
WHEN MARRIED
DIED
WHERE

11 BORN
WHERE
DIED
WHERE

12 BORN
WHERE
WHEN MARRIED
DIED
WHERE

13 BORN
WHERE
DIED
WHERE

14 BORN
WHERE
WHEN MARRIED
DIED
WHERE

15 BORN
WHERE
DIED
WHERE

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31



COYOTE CHORUS

A tawny form comes loping through the grain,
A phantom this, of forest, hill and plain;
A pause, a look and then a swift retreat!
Or was it just a breeze that stirred the wheat?
I walk along, and there upon a hill,
Where autumn trees their golden harvest spill;
I see a shadow vanish through the trees!
And now I know, it wasn't any breeze!
The evening shadows lengthen o'er the land,
Deep silence soothes the night with gentle hand;
There comes a sob! a wail, and then a bark!
A coyote chorus shivering through the dark!



Working at the Drop-in Centre.



Pot luck dinner.



Sorting out the mess!





Making an important decision on the mock-up sheets.



Getting it "all together" on the family histories.



A visit from Inter-Collegiate Press representative, Dick Huber in picture placement.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It's easy to pick out the flaws
In the work that others have done,
To point out the errors that others have made
When your own task you haven't begun.

It's easy enough to fuss and find fault
When others are doing their best,
To sneer at the little that they have achieved,
When you have done nothing but rest.

It's easy enough to cavil and carp,
To criticize, scuff and deride,
For few of us ever have done perfect work
No matter how hard we have tried.

It's easy enough not to speak of the best,
And to dwell at the time on the worst,
And perhaps it is proper sometimes to find fault,
But be sure that you've done something first.

THANK YOU

It has been a long time coming but finally it is here; anything this good is worth waiting for! We want to thank the Battle River Women of Uniform for forming the beginning meetings and their continuing support. Thanks go to the New Horizons and Alberta Culture for their financial aid.

We express our sincere thanks to all you special people who contributed your family photos and histories, that is where our real history begins and continues.

A big thank you to all the artists, typists, proofreaders and faithful workers who have seen it through to completion. A special mention to the Irma New Horizons for the use of the Drop-in Centre and the Irma Times stored there.

Thanks go to Lakeland Insulations for the innumerable pages of photo copying; to the Times of Irma for much reference material and to the Burr household for the use of the basement these past months.

We have done our best to bring the book up to date but no doubt there have been omissions and discrepancies; remember the stories are only as accurate as the memories of those who submitted them.

We urge everyone to begin a chronicle of their family history from this day on, let us be better prepared for the next set of volumes in 2085.

GENERAL INDEX

Name

Page

A	Agricultural Society	296
	Albert District	118
	Albert Busy Beavers	121
	Alberta Wheat Pool	48
	Alma Mater District	130
	Anglican Church, St. Mary's	111
	Anniversaries	332
	Avonglen District	137
	Avonglen Junior U.F.W.A.	139

B	Bands	287
	Bank Robbery	40
	Banks	40
	Baseball (softball, fastball)	256
	Batt District	146
	Batt Memories	332
	Battle River Women of Unifarm	297
	Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks	308
	Blacksmith and Machine Shops	41
	Boxing	259
	Brownies	298
	Buffalo Coulee W.I.	128

C	Cafes	43
	Canadian Race, The (Band)	288
	Chacutenah Manor	102
	Chamber of Commerce	297
	Chautauqua	286
	Christian & Missionary Alliance Church ...	103
	Coal Springs District	152
	Creamery	44
	Crescent Hill District	157
	Cubs and Scouts	308
	Curling Club	259

D	Dairy Business	44
	Dedication	2
	Doctors	98
	Draying	44
	Dress Shop	46
	Drug Stores	46

E	Early History of Our Area	12
	Eastern Star, Order of	321
	Echo District	160
	Editor's Message	3
	Elks Lodge	308

F	Federal Elevator	49
	Figure Skating	272
	Fires in Irma and District	36
	Fish and Game Association	263
	Four-H (4-H) Clubs	302

G	Garages and Filling Stations	51
	Gratton Unifarm	301
	Guides (Girl Guides of Canada)	299

H	Hair Dressers	63
	Hardwares	63
	Hockey, Minor	268
	Hockey, Recreational	271
	Hockey, Senior	264
	Home and School Association	311
	Homesteading around Irma	19
	Homesteading for Everyone	15
	Homestead Life	14
	Honor Roll (Wars)	363
	Hotels	64

I	Independent Order of Oddfellows	301
	Insurance Agencies & Real Estate	65
	Irma & District Co-operative Association ...	56
	Irma Flower Shop	50
	Irma History	30
	Irma Village Council	34
	Irma Women's Institute	316

J	Jarrow District	184
	Jarrow, Hamlet of	188
	Jarrow Memories	185

K	Kinette Club	313
	Kinsmen Club	312

L	Ladies Auxiliary to the Canadian Legion ..	358
	Ladies Orange Benevolent Association	319
	Lewisville District	193
	Livery Barn	66
	Locker Plant	66
	Lumber Yards	67
	Lutheran Church	114
	Lynx District	197

M	Machine Agencies	68
	Masons, Gratton Lodge	300
	McFarland, J.C. and Co.	60
	Melbrae District	201
	Messages	6
	Metropolitan District	209
	Municipality	24

N	New Horizons Club	314
	Newspapers	84
	Northwestern Utilities	82
	Nursing Help	98

O	Oil and Gas	72
	Orbindale District	213
	Orchestras	287
	Order of the Eastern Star	321
	Order of the Royal Purple	309

P	Poolroom and Barber Shop	75
	Post Office and Mail Carriers	83

R	Rebecca Lodge	300
	Red Cross	323
	Reminiscences	334
	Ringette, Junior	276
	Rodino Anglican Church W.A.	223
	Rodino District	218
	Roman Catholic Church, St. Theresa's	113
	Roseberry District	225
	Roseberry Unifarm	323
	Ross District	230
	Royal Canadian Legion	360
	Royal Purple, Order of	309

S	Sea Cadets	358
	Sharon Lutheran Church	114
	Silver Lane District	236
	Strawberry Plains District	239
	Strawberry Plains W.I.	241
	Sunny Brae District	246

T	Telephone Systems	82
	Tribute to Prairie Pioneers	4
	Twins	352

U	United Church	107
	United Church Women	109
	United Grain Growers	50

V	Village of Irma (See Irma)	
----------	----------------------------	--

W	Willowview	251
----------	------------------	-----



FAMILY HISTORY INDEX

NAME

A

Adams, Hugh	374
Ahlf, Carl	374
Alexander, Lewis	375
Allen, Mrs. Andrew	376
Allen, Charlie	376
Allen, Clifford	376
Allen, E.B. (Ted)	377
Allen, Ellsworth Adelbert (Dub)	378
Allen, Frank	378
Allen, Gerald	378
Allen, Jesse	380
Allen, John B.	381
Allen, Maynard	384
Ambler, Dave	384
Ambler, George	386
Ambler Family	386
Ambler, Mathew Clarkston (Tam)	386
Anderson, Allen	387
Anderson, Carl August	388
Anderson, W.A.	388
Anderson, W.M. (Bill)	388
Anquist, Carl	389
Archibald, Almon	389
Archibald, Charlie	390
Archibald, Garry	391
Archibald, Ivan Thomas	392
Archibald, J.H.	393
Armitage, Bert	394
Armitage, Bill	395
Armitage, Donald	395
Armitage, Joseph Herbert (Herb)	396
Armitage, Robert John	396
Armstrong, Bruce	396
Armstrong, J.H.S.	397
Armstrong, John J.	397
Arnold Grover	398
Askin, M.D. (Dick)	400
Askin, William Roy	402
Astley, Roscoe	403
Averill, Tommy and Joe	404

B

Bacon, Frank	404
Bacon, Tom	405
Bacon, Westley	405
Bacon, William	407
Badry, Alfred	407
Baergen, Gerhard G.	407
Baker, Charles	408
Ballentine Family	410
Barber, Bruce	412
Barber, Dennis	412
Barber, William T.	412
Barker, Harold	413
Barss, C.H.	413
Barss, David	414
Barss Sr., John	418

Barss, John F.	419
Barss, Layton	419
Baska, Charlie	420
Baska, Frank	422
Bateman, Sophie	422
Bauer, Wes	423
Bayne Family	423
Beatty, Norman	424
Beckett Families	424
Beckett, Henry	425
Beckett, Lawrence	425
Beer, Harold	426
Bell, Jim	428
Bell, Robert M.	429
Belton, W.A.	430
Berg, Stanford	431
Berreth Family	431
Bethge, Otto	432
Bick, Roland	433
Bjerkholt, Barney and Halton	433
Bjork, Charlie (Collie)	434
Black, Herbert	434
Blaine, Pete	434
Blakely, Arthur	435
Blanchard Family	435
Bovencamp Family	436
Boyd, Jr., Bill	437
Boyd, Sr., William	438
Brady, John	439
Breckenridge, Garret	440
Bridgeman, George	440
Bridgeman, W.M.	441
Bronson, Jim	441
Bronson, John W.	442
Bronson, Ray	443
Bronson, Roy	444
Bronson, Tom	444
Brown, Chester	444
Brown, Doris (Darling)	445
Brown, James	446
Brown, Stan	447
Bruhaug, Ed	448
Burns, William	449
Burr, Carl	450
Burr, Earl	450
Burr, Jack	451
Burr, Robert	452
Burrell, James	452
Burton, Bob	452
Burton, Donald	452
Burton, Joe	453
Burton, Roy	453
Burton, W.A.	454
Burton, Wayne	454

C

Cairns, Alex	455
Campbell, Edna	455
Campbell, Herb	455

Carrington, J.N.	456
Carter, Arthur	456
Carter, Eugene	457
Carter, Harry	458
Carter, Kenneth and Harry	459
Challis, Fred	460
Charter Family	460
Chase, Orville	460
Christanson, Gus	461
Christensen, Jim	462
Christenson, Arnold	463
Christenson, Christopher	463
Christenson, J.A. (Jackie)	465
Christenson, Ole	465
Chrysler, John Alfred	465
Clapp, George	466
Clark, Woodruff	467
Clarke, Thomas	467
Clelland, Bert	469
Clisdell, James	469
Clumstad, Fred	469
Cockroft, Harold	470
Code, Mildred	471
Coffin, Charles and Carrie	471
Coffin, Dorcas (nee Magrath)	472
Coffin, Doug	473
Cole, William	473
Comely Story	474
Congdon Family	475
Connolly, Allan Robert	477
Conrad, Carole (Smallwood)	477
Cook, Archie	477
Copeland, Edgar	478
Copeland, T.R.	478
Costin, Richard Edward	479
Cotton, Bud	479
Coultsman, Garfield	480
Coultsman, Stanton	480
Coultsman, Thomas	481
Crabb, Frank	481
Craig, David	482
Craig Family	482
Craig Sr., James	483
Crawford, Allan	483
Creasy, Bryan	483
Creasy, Donald	485
Creasy, Martin	486
Crouse, Aaron	487
Crouse, Alfred Benjamin	488
Cummings, Christie	489
Currie and Hardy Families	490
Currie, Gerald	492
Currie, Ivan	493
Currie, Leigh	494
Czeparak, Mike	495

D

Dagg, Donald	495
Dahl, Olaf (Ole)	496
Dallow, Edwin T.	496
Daniel Family	496
Daniels, Wilfred	497
Darkes, Ress	498

Darling, Gordon F.	498
Darling, J. Allan	500
Darling, Orrill (Fischer)	501
Darling, W. Emory	503
Daugherty, J.W. (Bill) Sr.	504
Davies, Dapper	505
Dawson, Bob	505
Dawson Sr., George	506
Dempsey, Robert (Bob)	506
Dempsey, Ron	507
Denison, Harvey	507
DeTro, Charles	508
Dootson Family	509
Dootson, Harold	510
Dootson, Roger	510
Dubasz Family	511
Dumont, Joseph	513
Dunbar, Bill	513
Dunbar, Bill	514
Dunbar, Bob	515
Dunbar, Hamish	515
Dunbar Sr., John	515

E

Eaton, Ross	518
Edmonds, Russell	518
Elford Family	519
Elliott, Gordon	520
Elliott, J.H.	520
Elliott, Jim	521
Elliot, Leslie	522
Elliott, Norman Hugh	522
Enger, Martin	523
Enger, Olaf	525
Enger, Ole	526
Enger, Walter	527
Engler, Carl	529
Erickson, Elmer and John	529
Erickson, Lloyd S.	530
Erickson, Ralph	531

F

Farthing, Henry	532
Faulkner, Debs	532
Faulkner, George	532
Feero, Chester	533
Fenton, Eldon	533
Fenton, James	534
Fenton, Stuart	536
Ferguson, Jayson	538
Figenshau, Newel	538
Figur, Emanuel	539
Firkus, Albert Sr.	539
Firkus, Ambrose No. 2	540
Firkus, Ambrose No. 1	540
Firkus, Clifford	541
Fischer, A.A.	541
Fischer, Don	544
Fischer, George Bertram	545
Fischer, George	546
Fischer, Gordon	548
Fischer, Ken	549
Fischer, Robert	550

Fitzpatrick, Richard Style	551
Fleming, Alfred	552
Fleming, Archie	552
Fleming, John Thomas	553
Fleming, Joseph Alfred	553
Fletcher, Jack	555
Fletcher, (nee Orton) Marence G.	556
Flewelling, Margaret A.	557
Fluevog Family	557
Fluevog, Sigurd	559
Ford Sr., Francis	559
Ford, Frank	561
Ford, George	561
Foreman, Robert	562
Fornal, (nee Owen) Connie	564
Forsberg, Betty (MacKay)	564
Foxwell, (Ted) Albert Edward	564
Frickelton, Walter Nelsen	565
Frye, Neil	566
Frye, Roscoe	566
Fucsko Family	567
Fuder, Harold	568
Fuder, Lorne	569
Fuder, Nathan Lawrence	569
Fuder, Raymond	571
Funk, Peter H.	571

G

Gale, Alexander	574
Geeson Family	574
Glasgow, Aletha	575
Glasgow, Gerald	576
Glasgow, Lil (MacKay)	576
Glasgow, Richard	577
Glasgow Family	578
Gleeson, (Fischer) Alice	580
Glover, Charlie	580
Glover, Harold	581
Glover, Richard Russel	582
Goddard, Frank	582
Goodale, Calvin	582
Goodale, Earl and Ellsworth	584
Goodale, Irvine	584
Goodrich, Riley	585
Goodwin, W.	585
Gould, Calvin	586
Graham, George and Fawcett	586
Granger, Barlow	586
Granger, Roy	587
Greenwood, Thomas	588
Greenwood, Madsen Nels	590
Groner Family	590
Guiltner, Lionel	591
Guiltner, Richard R.	593
Gulbraa, Carl	594
Gulbraa, J.B.	595
Gulbraa, Joe	596
Gulbraa, Knute	597
Gunn, Bill and Norman	597
Gunn, Donald	598
Gustafson, Archie	599
Guy, Bill	602
Gwinn, Arthur Clayton	602

Gwinn, Lewis James	603
Gwinn, Wayne	603

H

Halling, Oscar	604
Halversen, Olav	604
Hardy Family	604
Hardy, Allen	605
Hardy, Ivan	605
Hardy, Paulvin Joseph	606
Harper, Allen	606
Harper, Bill	606
Harper, R.M.	607
Harrison, Marian (Darling)	607
Harvey, Pete	608
Harvey, Phylo Jefferson	609
Haun, Burton	609
Haun, Edward	610
Hay, Roy	611
Hearn, Jim	614
Hedley, James Allan	614
Henderson, Bruce	615
Herbert, Roland	615
Herder, Rueben	616
Herrick Family	616
Higginson, George and Fred	617
Hill, Charles Theodore	618
Hill, Fred McLellan	619
Hill, John Paulvin	620
Hill, Stanley Wilbert	620
Hill, Theodore Fredrick	620
Hill, William T.	620
Hinecker, Esther	621
Hines, Dwight	621
Hines, Jack	621
Hines, John	622
Hipperson, William G.	622
Hlynka Family	622
Hockett Families	623
Hollar, Donald Albert	625
Hollar, Glen	626
Hollar, Norman	626
Hollar, Ollie	627
Hollinger, Gordon	628
Hollinger, Ludvig	629
Holt, Clifton	629
Holt, Colony	630
Holt, (nee Magrath) Gertrude Mabel	631
Holt, J.M.	632
Holt, Joshua	634
Holt, Phil	635
Horn, Jesse B.	636
Hostrup, Lauritz	637
Hubman, John	637
Hubman, William	638
Huffman Family	638
Hunter, Lyn	639
Hurst, Jerry	639
Hutchinson, Vic	640

I

Inglis, H.W.	642
Inkin, Bill	642

Inkin, George	643
Inkin, Philip	644
Inkin, William	644

J

Jack, Alfred Henry (Fred)	645
Jackman, Charles	645
Jackson, Eddie	646
Jackson, James	648
James, John	651
Jamieson, William	652
Jamison, Al	652
Jenkins, William	652
Jones, Albert	653
Jones, E.J. (Mrs.)	653
Jones, E.J.	653
Jones, Percy	654
Jones, Roland Duane	655
Johnson, Albert	655
Johnson, Alfred	655
Johnson, Henning	656
Johnson, Robert	656
Johnson, Victor	657
Johnston, Sydney	657
Johnstone, F.C.	658

K

Kasten Family	658
Kellar, Frank	659
Kellar, Peter	660
Kelm, William R.	660
Kennedy, Hugh	660
Kennedy, James	661
Kennedy Family	663
King, Austin	663
King, George	663
King, Norman	664
King, Wayne	664
King, William	665
Knapp, Arthur Scott	666
Knowles, George Gordon	666
Knowles, Thomas L.	666
Knudson, Albert	666
Knudson, Christian	667
Knudson, Fred	667
Knudson, Halsten	668
Knudson, Martin	668
Kozak, Peter	669
Krompok, Steve	669
Kuwica, Walter	670

L

Lacroix, Ed	670
Lakusta, Norma (Dootson)	670
Lambert, Lewis	671
Landers, Arthur	672
Landers, Robert	673
Larson, Alf	674
Larson, Allan	675
Larson, Carl	677
Larson, Bjarne	677
Larson, Erling	678
Larson, Haakon	678
Larson, Louie	679

Larson, Matt	680
Larson, Nan (MacKay)	680
Larson, Olaf	681
Larson, Olaf P.	682
Larson, Peter	682
Larson, Phil	683
Larson, Rickard (Rick) Olai	684
Larson, Ronald	686
Larson, Torlief	687
Larson, Victor	688
Lattner, Charles	688
Lawson, William	688
Lennon, James	689
Lien, Arnold	690
Likness Family	690
Lindbeck Family	691
Lindberg Family	692
Lindquist, Erland	693
Lingley, James	694
Lingley, K.B.	695
Lisson, Stanley	695
Lloyd, John	698
Locke, Arthur	698
Lockhart, Cecil	699
Lockhart, Jim	699
Lockhart, Tommy	700
Lockhart Family	700
Long, Art	703
Long, Bert	705
Longmire, Rev. Edward	706
Loring Family	706
Love, Bob	710
Love, H.W.	710
Love, John Russell	711
Lovig, Pare (nee Elford)	712
Lovig, Obert	712
Lovig, Olaf	713
Lukens, Francis Chester	714
Lukens, Francis (Lefty)	714
Lukens, Francis Robert (Bob)	715
Lukens, Robert	715
Lusk, Ernie	717
Lymburner Family	717
Lynde, Ross	723
Lyster, Harry	724

M

MacDonald, J.A.	726
MacDuff, James L.	728
MacFarlane, Robert	729
MacKay, Donald	729
MacKay, John	730
MacKay, John G. (Jack)	731
MacKay, Mervin	732
MacMillan, Angus	732
MacMillan, Malcolm	734
MacMillan, Neil	736
MacMillan, Neil	736
Maguire Family	737
Manners, George	738
Marbry Family	738
Mark, Jerry	739
Mark, Ralph	740

Marshall, John	741
Marshall, John (Jack)	742
Masson Family	743
Matheson Family	744
Mathison, Norman	744
Matthew, William	745
Matthews, George	747
Matthews, John Willian	748
McCracken Family	750
McCreadie, John	750
McDermot, Mac	750
McDowell, Edward T.	750
McElroy, Haddon	751
McFadden, Jack	752
McFarland, R.C.	752
McGuire, Hugh	754
McIlroy, Jim	755
McKay, Alexander G.	755
McKay, Clifford, Donald, and Jack	755
McKee, Ellina	756
McKillop, Don	757
McLean, Mrs. J.C. and Mrs. W.H. Parsons	758
McLean, (Guiltner) Marjorie	765
McMinns Family	765
McMurray, Oscar	765
McNall, Matt	765
McNaughton, John	766
McRoberts, Alexander	766
McRoberts, Richard	767
Meakins, Bill	767
Meakins, Bob	767
Meakins, Harry	768
Meakins, R.T.	770
Meakins, Terrance	771
Meier, Larry	772
Merry, Joe	772
Meyer, Eugene	772
Meyer, Jacob	773
Meyer, Linus	774
Mikkelson, Lars	776
Miles, Adam	777
Miles, S.C.	779
Millar, J.C. Margaret	781
Millar, William	782
Miller, Charles	782
Miller, Percy	783
Mills, Maudie (Smallwood)	784
Milne, Charlie	784
Milton, William	785
Mitchell, G.W.	786
Mitchell, William Gilbert	786
Mollier, Pete	786
Moore, Joseph M.	787
Morgan Family	788
Morse, Harold	788
Morse, W.H. (Herbie)	789
Moulder, Robert	790
Murphy Family	791
Murphy, Ethel	791
Murray, Ashley	791
Murray, Ed	792

Murray, John	792
Murray, Stan	792
Myers, Wallace E.	793

N

Nash, Victor	794
New, Sidney Montague	795
New, William	795
Newton, John	795
Nicoll, Bert	796
Nilson, Erling	796
Nilson, Sivert	797
Nissen, H.C. (Ole)	798
Nolan, John	798

O

O'Donoghue, Jim	799
Oldham, Abel	799
Oldham, Howard	799
Oldham, Margaret	800
Oldham, Seth	801
Olsen, Charles	801
Olsen, Orville	802
Olsen, Roy	803
O'Neill, Thomas A.	803
Oracheski, Alfred	805
Oracheski, Edward William	805
Oracheski, Evelyn Helen	805
Oracheski, (Matthew) Frances	806
Oracheski, Joe	806
Oracheski, Kenneth Donald	807
Oracheski, Louis	807
Oracheski, Mike	808
Oracheski, Ron	808
Oracheski, Stan	809
Oracheski, William	809
Orr, Milton	810
Orton, A.E. (Ted)	810
Orton, Brian	811
Osborne, George	811
Ostad, John	811
Overbo, Gjermund (John) Evindson	812
Overbo, Knut	812
Overby, Arthur	813
Owen, Emmie	813
Owen, Ernie	814
Owen, (H.G. Family), Jimmy	814
Owen Family	815

P

Parke, H.E. (Ned)	815
Parsons, Wes	816
Pasztor Family	818
Patrick, Lorraine (Smallwood)	820
Patterson, Rueben William	821
Paul, Jim and David	823
Pavely, Sid	823
Pedel, George and Bill	823
Pederson, Nils	825
Pendleton, Gage	826
Peterson, Arthur E.	827
Peterson Sr., Frank	828
Peterson, Howard	829
Peterson, Nelwin	831

Peterson, Warren (Slim)	831
Phillips, (Barss) Kathy	832
Pierce, Art	832
Pioker, Andrew	833
Pioker, Steve	834
Pomeroy Family	834
Pond Family	834
Printup, Mrs.	835
Prior, Erle	835
Prior, Raymond (Babe)	836
Prior, Ron	838
Prior, Ted	839
Prior, William	839
Prosser, E.W.	840
Prosser Families	841
Prosser, Percy	842
Prosser, Wellington	843
Prothero, Henry G.	844
Purvis Family	844
Pyle, Charlie	844
Pyle Sr., Fred	845
Pyle, Gordon	846

Sawdon, John	885
Schaeffner, Arthur	886
Schlender Family	886
Schoenknecht Family	888
Schroeder Brothers	888
Scogg, Emil	888
Scott, John L.	889
Seguin, Alice (Enger)	890
Sellers Family	891
Sellstedt, Petrus	891
Seton, J.N.C.	892
Setter, Otto	892
Sharkey, Ed	893
Shaw, Avis (Satre)	893
Shaw, Tom	894
Shaw, Wellington	895
Shippy, Claude	895
Shippy, Jasper	896
Shippy, Vance	896
Shotts, Roy L.	896
Simmons, Doris Ena	898
Simmons, S.G.	898
Simmons and Simmermon Families	899

Sisson, George A.	902
Skiles, Ira Taft	902
Skori, Len	902
Skori, Ted	903
Slipper, Thomas	904
Smallwood, Alex	905
Smallwood, Cliff	905
Smallwood, Robert	907
Smallwood, Robert Dunbar	907
Smith, Delmar	909
Smith, George	910
Smith, H.G. (Tobe)	911
Smith, Jean (Darling)	911
Smith, Todd	912
Snyder Family	913
Soneff, Karl	913
Soucy, Charles	914
Spinaze Family	914
Spring, Elva	915
Sproule, Orbin	916
Squires, Albert	916
Stead, James	916
Steele, Clark	916
Steele, W.B.	916
Steffensen Family	917
Stewart, Andy	918
Stewart, William (Billy)	919
Stimson, Burt	920
Stimson, Dean	921
Stockton, Ted	922
Stone, R.H. (Bob)	923
Stougaard, Mrs. Kristine	923
Stougaard, Lauritz	923
Strand, George Andrew	924
Swailes, Charles	924
Swanson, (nee Enger) Clarence	924
Swingen, Martin	927
Symington, Wilf	927
Szoke, Sam	928

R

Raasok Family	848
Rae, Ernest	849
Rae, J.G.	850
Rae, Wilber	852
Ramsay, Claude Andrew	852
Ramsay, William D.	854
Rawluk, Harry	854
Reber, Lewis	856
Reed, Charles	856
Reitan, John	857
Reitan, Marvin	858
Renwick, Walter	859
Revill, William	859
Ribaritis, Jim	860
Richardson, Dr. Eric	860
Riddle, Carl	860
Riley, Charles	861
Riley, Harry	862
Robertson, D.L.	866
Rohrer Family	867
Rome, Thomas	868
Ronaghan, Allan	868
Ronjom, Knut	869
Rubenok, George	870
Rubenok, Mike	871
Russell, A. William	871
Russell Families	872
Ruste, (nee Steffensen) Arlene	873

S

Sanders, Tom	874
Satre, Curtis	875
Satre Family	875
Savage, Lawrence	877
Savage, Oswald	878
Savard, Charlie	878
Savard Families	879
Saville Sr., Frank	880
Saville, Jean	883
Saville, Joe	885

T	Targett Family - Memories of Irma	929
	Tate, Robert (Jack) John	931
	Taylor, Albert	931
	Taylor, John (Jack) Albert	935
	Thayer, Walter	937
	Theroux, George	938
	Thompson, William	939
	Thurston, F.T.	939
	Thurston, Ron	943
	Thurston, Ted	943
	Tindall, Leslie	943
	Toll, A.W.	944
	Tomlinson, Earl	944
	Tomlinson, Hugh	945
	Treichel, Lewis	946
	Tripp, George	948
	Turnbull, Andy	948
	Tweedy, Nelson	948

U	Uhlich, Max Robert	952
----------	--------------------------	-----

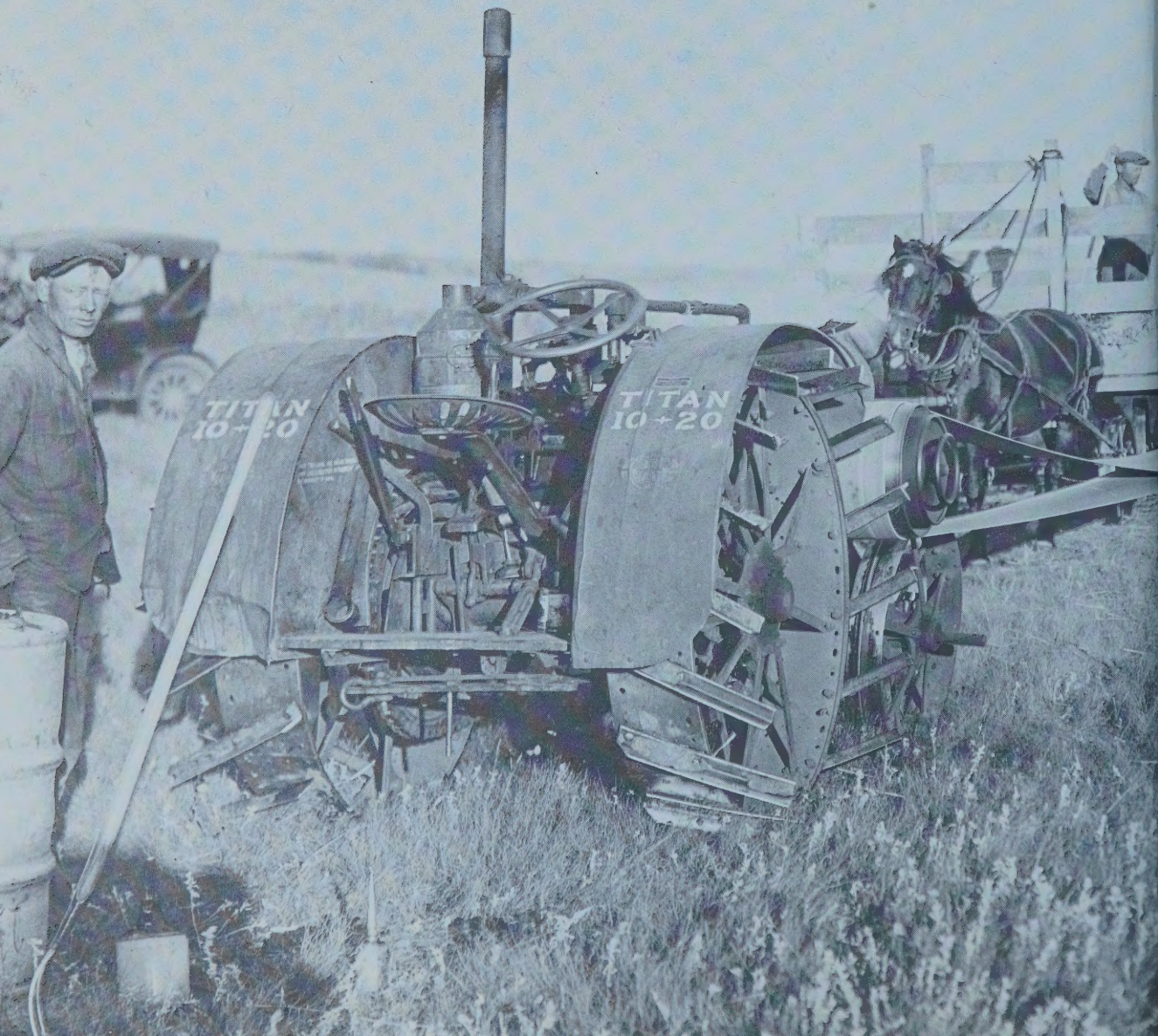
V	Vandervaate Family	952
	Veenstra Family	953
	Voros, James	954
	Voros Jr., James	954
	Voros, Peter	955

W	Waite, John	955
	Wakefield, (Allen) Doris	955
	Wakefield, Jim	956
	Walker, Alfred	956
	Walker, George Arthur	957
	Walker, W.E.	958
	Walker, William	959
	Wark, George	960

	Watson, John	960
	Webb Family	961
	Websdale, Harry	962
	Welguz, Patricia (Enger)	962
	Weinrich, August	962
	Weise Family	962
	Weisser, Paul	963
	Welch, Glen	964
	Whidden Families	965
	White, Clifton	966
	White, Fred	966
	White, Fred	968
	Whyte, Roy	968
	Wilbraham Family	968
	Willerton Farms	969
	Williams, Bob	970
	Williamsons, Russell	970
	Wilson, Rev. and Mrs. G.	971
	Wilson, George	971
	Wilson Family	972
	Winfield, Ahab	972
	Wirth, Emil	972
	Withall, Francis	973
	Withall, Frank	973
	Wood, Jas.	974
	Wood, Thomas	975
	Worthing, George	976
	Wright, Percy	976
	Wyand Family	976

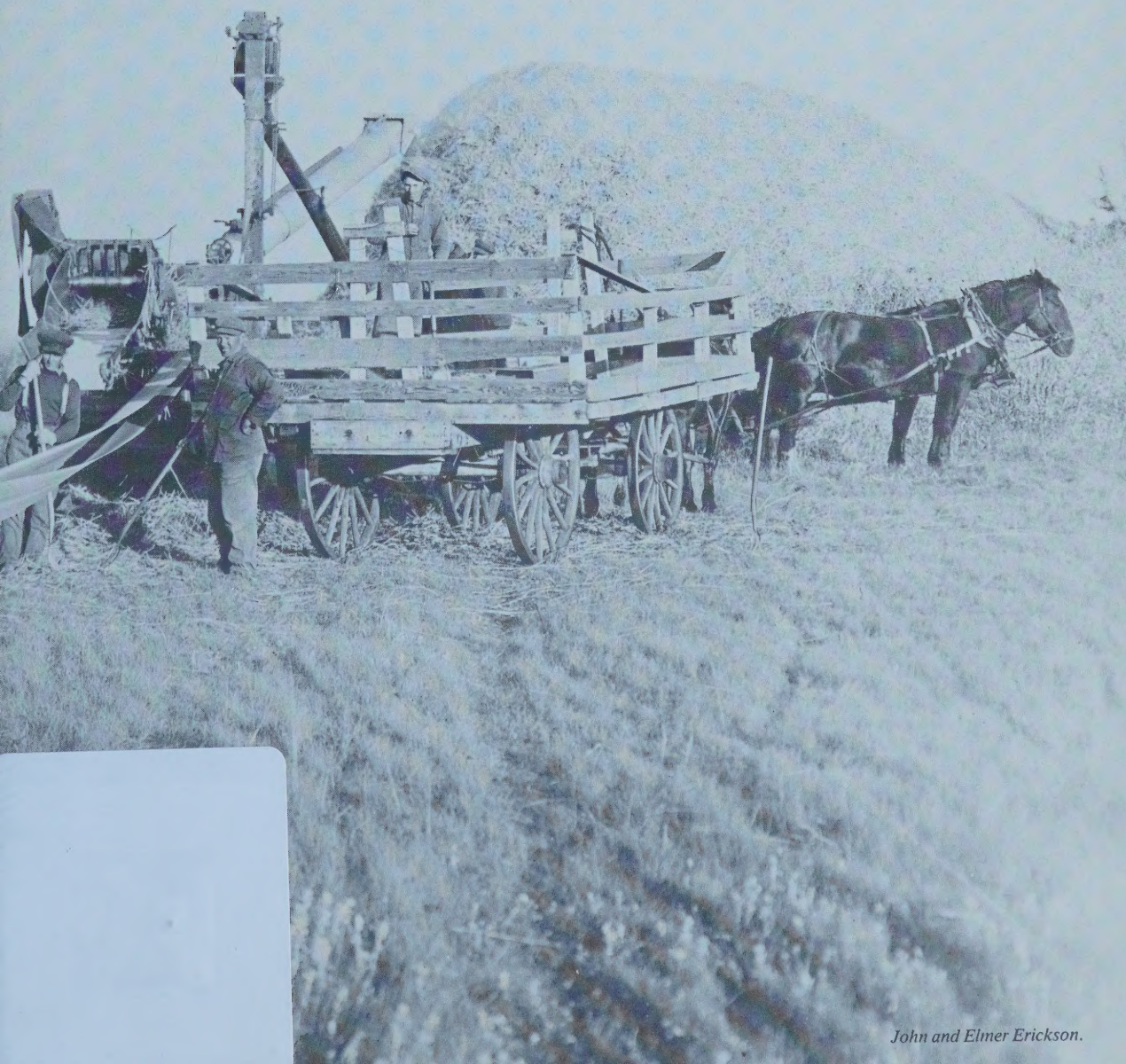
Y	Yarr, Thomas Edward	978
	Yeend Family	978
	Young, Charles	978
	Younker, Frank	979
	Younker, Fred	980
	Younker, George	981





EDMONTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY
OCT 14 1986

RETURN TO ANY
SERVICE POINT



John and Elmer Erickson.

